

THE TIMES

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WEDNESDAY
30p
WEEKDAYS

'The Empress and I can never forget the many kinds of suffering so many people have undergone. At the thought of the scars of war that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain'

A day of protest and reconciliation

By ALAN HAMILTON

EMPEROR AKIHITO of Japan spoke last night of his sorrow and pain at the scars left by the Second World War, after witnessing a protest by hundreds of former prisoners-of-war at the start of his four-day state visit to Britain.

Addressing a Buckingham Palace banquet, the Emperor said that he could never forget the suffering so many people had undergone because of the war. But he expressed his gratitude to those who, despite past sufferings, looked to the future.

His war references were largely a repetition of carefully-hosen remarks he made in Tokyo, and the Japanese have emphasised all along that there was never any question of him issuing a full-scale apology for wartime atrocities.

The Queen also acknowledged the residue of anti-Japanese feeling when she said that, while the memories of the war still caused pain, they had also acted as a spur to reconciliation. Senior Japanese officials accompanying the Emperor last night expressed understanding for the protests, including the burning of a Japanese flag, as the Emperor and the Queen rode down The Mall. But they voiced relief that the "dignified and orderly" demonstration was smaller than some had feared. "We will not overreact; it does not get under our skin," Kazuo Chiba, the Emperor's press secretary, said.

The Emperor's banquet speech was welcomed as a personal statement by veterans' leaders, but it failed to satisfy their demands for a full apology from the Japanese Government. Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors Association, said: "I accept the Emperor's words as they were intended, but they do not constitute an apology. He himself has nothing to apologise for. If he had been apologising on behalf of his Government, that would have been a different matter. Our campaign goes on."

Earlier, hundreds of war veterans, and the sons and daughters of many who have since died, gathered in The Mall intent on turning their backs in silent protest as the Emperor passed. But the effect of the demonstration on the Emperor himself was diminished by a decision — allegedly taken because of the threat of rain — to substitute enclosed coaches for the open landaus in which the two rulers and their consorts were to have travelled to the Palace from Horse Guards Parade.

The imperial couple had been greeted by the Queen and Prince Philip with warm handshakes, but with no bowing on either side. The visitors were introduced to Tony Blair, Robin Cook and other dignitaries before standing for the Japanese national anthem. As the procession of eight carriages, moved into The Mall, the command "About face!" rang out and the veterans became well-drilled soldiers again, smartly turning their backs to the street. The air was filled with boing. The Emperor was seen to glance briefly at the crowd, while members of his party, riding in open landaus behind the two enclosed coaches, appeared uneasy.



Henry Dixon, a Burma railway survivor, shows his medals to five-year-old Yurika Oshio and her mother, Yoshiko, from Tokyo (Photograph: Chris Harris)

The smile that spanned three generations

By JOANNA BAILE

HENRY DIXON turned out in The Mall to join the protest at the Emperor of Japan's visit yesterday — and ended up showing off his medals to a five-year-old Japanese girl and her mother.

Mr Dixon, 77, met Yurika and Yoshiko Oshio, who are on holiday from Tokyo, while he waited to take part in the silent protest. He said that Mrs Oshio spoke no English, "but she and her daughter were obviously interested in my medals".

Mr Dixon spent three years in captivity and worked on the Burma railway. As hundreds of men died of malnutrition and disease around him, he tried to stay healthy by supplementing his diet of rice, with lizards, snakes and monkeys.

One of his worst memories was undergoing an operation to remove his appendix without anaesthetic in a prison camp hospital. The Russian surgeon required five men to hold him down.

Mr Dixon, of Malden, Surrey, said: "The Japanese guards used to inflict terrible pain on prisoners, and the punishment for trying to escape was execution." He remembered one guard, nicknamed The Black Prince, as the worst. "He just beat people for the sake of it. Once he came into the barracks where everyone was sleeping with two revolvers and just started taking pot shots at people. He hit people, but fortunately no one died."

Mr Dixon said he felt betrayed by Tony Blair for inviting the Emperor to Britain, adding: "I am here to protest for a full apology for all the men who are still lying in South East Asia who never made it home. It is an insult to all of us that Tony Blair has brought this man over. Blair has turned against us."

Mr Dixon believed that the protest had made a great impact. "I think the Emperor will now realise the depth of feeling that still exists about what they did to us as POWs. We were starved, worked and beaten to death. Life was nothing to them. I don't see how you can forgive and forget."

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England's World Cup warm-up Page 44

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Portugal Esc 350; Spain Ptas 3,250;
Switzerland Sfr 35.00; Taiwan NT\$ 350;
USA \$25.00; Tunisia Din 3,200; USA \$3.50.

Family suspected of £1.8m fraud arrested

By MARK HENDERSON

SIX members of a family suspected of masterminding false social security claims totalling £600,000 as well as a £1.2 million mortgage fraud have been arrested.

They were held after investigations by a pioneering benefit fraud squad.

The three women and three men in their thirties from the same extended family were bailed to return to Stoke Newington police station on June 30 after four north London homes were raided last month.

One of the men was arrested at Gatwick after flying back from the United States and Department of Social Security investigators believe the family may also have been defrauding social security in New York City. Some of those arrested had American social security numbers.

The team of 20 elite investigators, on a three-year trial with DSS funding, works closely with the Fraud Squad and uses complex surveillance techniques. It is expected to become a model for nationwide initiatives against fraud.

Cheats are starting to feel the impact of the Government's determination to tackle benefit fraud. Frank Field, the Welfare Reform Minister, said yesterday.

Mr Field has been given responsibility for fighting fraud as Tony Blair seeks to reduce the £4 billion annual cost of such crime. He takes over the job from John Denham, the junior Social Security Minister. "We are going for the big boys," Mr Field said. "No one need think that the new administrative penalties for benefit fraud will mean that we will not continue to take tough action against fraudsters who make organised attacks on the system."

As well as targeting organised cheats who defraud the taxpayer of thousands of

pounds, DSS investigators have started to use new powers to fine smaller offenders without taking them to court, Mr Field said. Investigators can allow false claimants to pay back what they owe, plus a one-off fine, typically 30 per cent of the amount defrauded.

"We want to show that we are not obsessed with individual claimants, but are addressing the sustained attack the department is under from organised criminals," Mr Field said.

The DSS is also examining other fraud-busting measures before a policy paper is published. Another London pilot scheme, under which giro cheques are stamped with barcodes, is to be extended.

People who claim more than one benefit should have their applications cross-referenced to check for fraud, Mr Field added. Collusion between employers and employees making family credit claims is being studied and the lessons learnt would be built into the working families tax credit.

Power stations are 'as harmful as cars'

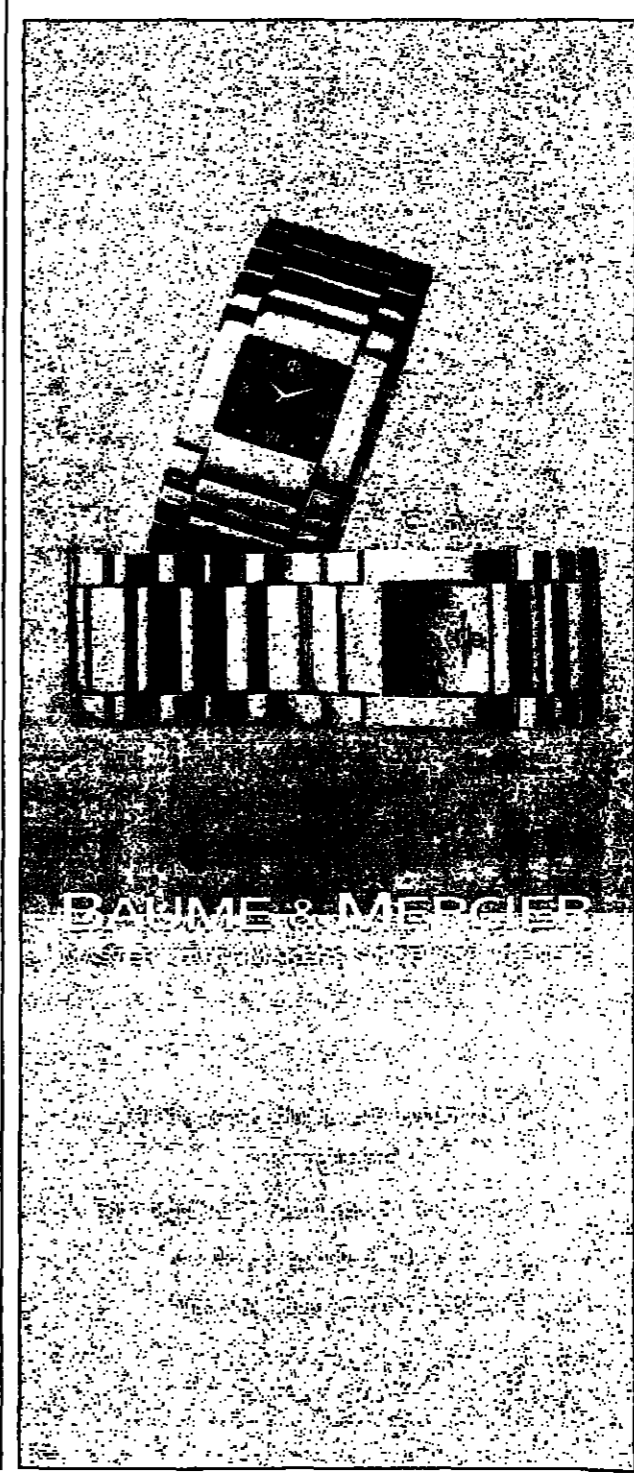
By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

POWER stations are a bigger source of pollution linked to breathing difficulties than previously thought, government advisers will disclose today.

Emissions of tiny particles from oil and coal-fired power stations can be as hazardous to public health as car emissions, they have found. The discovery comes during a review of the National Air Quality Strategy, which has, so far, been geared largely towards cleaning up car exhausts, and diesel engines in particular.

Research indicates that particle pollution may account for up to 8,000 premature deaths annually and 10,000 additional hospital admissions from asthma and other respiratory conditions.

Over the past five years diesel engines have increasingly been seen as the main source of this type of pollution. However, power stations and "large combustion plants" burning heavy oil and coal are also producing chemicals such as sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen that form a significant



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STATE VISIT OF THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN

Protest veterans turn back the clock

By JOANNA BALE

IT WAS a day of protest, but also a day of reminiscing for the hundreds of veterans who lined The Mall.

Sporting freshly polished medals and regimental ties, they travelled, some in groups, but many alone, to gather on a corner near Horse Guards Parade. Greeting each other with fond handshakes and smiles, they spread themselves along the procession route, armed with sashes and banners.

Although many leaned heavily on walking sticks, there were few complaints as they waited for three hours for the royal procession to begin. They passed the time swapping stories and enjoying the odd tot of whisky as hip flasks were handed round.

Bert Buggles, 80, from Oxford, told his friends of a recent holiday in Thailand, where they were once prisoners of war, building the Thai-Burma railway. "It was a marvellous trip, but hotter than I remember," he said. "I even went on the old railway. It hasn't really changed much after all these years."

When a Japanese journalist shouted in his own language to catch the attention of another, Stan Thomas, 82, chuckled as he remarked: "The sound of that voice brings back a few memories."

As the time approached for the royal procession to pass by, Arthur Titherington, chairman of the Japanese Labour Camps Survivors' Association, plucked 20 veterans from the crowds of tourists and civilians to form a line in front of a war memorial on the edge of St James's Park. When the Emperor's carriage drew near, he called them to atten-

tion and issued the order: "About turn." The old soldiers turned their backs in unison, accompanied by hundreds of other veterans, former civilian POWs and ordinary members of the public.

As the protesters' boos and whistles echoed across The Mall, some members of the Japanese Royal Family looked surprised and shocked as they rode past in open carriages.

Charlie Heywood, 74, a Normandy veteran, said: "It was a wonderful protest. I think we got the message across. But I wish Tony Blair had been there to see it because he is the one who is responsible for this state visit."

The crowds dispersed in search of lunch, the veterans to ex-servicemen's clubs, such as the Union Jack Club in Waterloo, for drinks, sandwiches and more talk of old times. Later, they regrouped outside Westminster Abbey to repeat their protests as the Emperor laid a wreath. "Go home!" shouted the protesters.

One bemused Italian tourist could not understand why they could not "forgive and forget." "It was a long time ago and it is all over," she said. A veteran replied: "No it isn't, you should read your history books, love."

It was only the Japanese tourists who really understood. Hiroko Kiyonobu, 31, a teacher from Tokyo, echoed the views of many of her countrymen when she said: "The Japanese Emperor has not been here for 25 years, so it is quite a special occasion. It is therefore heartbreaking to see this protest. I wish we could openly apologise and give them the compensation they deserve."



The Queen and Empress Michiko standing together yesterday as their husbands inspect a guard of honour

Blair steps in to limit damage to relations

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR made a determined effort yesterday to prevent protests against Emperor Akihito damaging Britain's growing relations with Japan.

In an interview with Japanese television he appealed to the people of Japan to understand the strong feelings among prisoners of war about the sufferings they endured. But speaking to the BBC the Prime Minister said that while no one should forget the past, the importance of today's relationship with modern Japan must be recognised.

He also said that the words uttered by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister on his visit to Tokyo in January, and by the Emperor, represented a "sincere apology" on behalf of the British people.

Mr Blair has been making strenuous efforts to prevent the Emperor's visit being overshadowed by demonstrations from former prisoners of war. Much of his January visit was spent preparing the ground for the trip and he was closely involved in Mr Hashimoto's decision to write an article for *The Sun* newspaper voicing regret over sufferings in the war.

Yesterday Mr Blair's spokesman said that he believed that because the Emperor, like the Queen, was constitutionally above the fray, his speech was a very big step. He described it as an expression of feeling "which may well be unique in their history".

Interviewed for Japanese Nippon TV, Mr Blair urged people in Japan to "realise that there is, of course, still very, very strong feeling amongst the prisoners of war about the appalling hardship and terrible suffering they endured".

He pointed out that there had been 31 royal visits to Japan since 1961, including one by the Queen in 1975, and that 18 members of the Japanese Cabinet came to Britain last year.

The Prime Minister called for "balance." "We should never forget the suffering and the appalling hardship that ended in many people losing their lives and undergoing brutal and terrible treatment during the course of the Second World War. We never forget that. And my generation owes a debt of gratitude to those who went through that suffering and gave their lives."

"But it is important, I believe, whilst never forgetting the past, that we recognise that we have a relationship with today's Japan — not just in terms of trade and investment but across a whole range of issues..."

Mr Blair made clear that the issue of compensation, which many veterans and their families feel should be reopened, was "settled by a treaty 50 years ago". Pressed to respond to calls for a formal apology from Japan, he said: "I do believe that both the Japanese Prime Minister and the words the Emperor have spoken represent a sincere apology on behalf of the Japanese people."

He defended the right of POWs to demonstrate, saying they were "entirely entitled to make their protest in whatever way they want".

The spokesman asked whether newspapers attacking the visit were seriously suggesting Britain should have nothing to do with Japan, with all the implications that had for jobs and

The land of sushi and rising early

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

JAPAN is not labour camps, war compensation and emperors who do not apologise. Japan is computers, sushi and people who play as hard as they work. That, at least, is the view of youth.

While veterans of the Far East battlefields agitate for a full apology from Emperor Akihito and compensation from the Japanese Government, their grandchildren's generation remain blissfully unaware of Japan's role in the war.

Representatives of schools and youth groups with Japanese links will be at Downing Street for a lunch with the Prime Minister and the Emperor tomorrow. The conversation among teenagers from one such organisation in East London yesterday, suggested that the political row is unlikely to be on the

agenda. From its base in Newham, Community Links is running a Japanese exchange programme for youngsters from the East End who spend time living in Japanese homes. Yesterday they were practising their Japanese phrases and reflecting on their recent trip, ahead of the reciprocal visit by Japanese youngsters in the autumn.

Before they visited the country, they said they had known next to nothing about Britain's formerly hostile relationship with the country. They seemed barely aware of it even now. "I knew very little about the country. It was just a country in the world. I thought of sushi and cars," said Nayma Ali, 15. She was aware of Japan's post-war growth but not of its history before 1945. "I learned a little before I went, that the country has only emerged in the last few years."

"They were really nice and friendly. And it was really nice and clean. There were vending machines in the streets everywhere. If you put one in the street here you wouldn't find it the next week. And there wasn't much graffiti."

Her views were echoed by Nadina Smith, 16. "Before I went I thought of computers and high technology equipment. Everything small. I knew about Hiroshima, but that was it. I knew very little of the history."

"When we got out there I was amazed that they work so hard, especially the children. They had schools for everything, whereas I just go to one school and can't wait to get home and don't do half as much homework. But when they go out they play hard. They were very eager to answer questions. And they wanted to know all about our country."

A diet of fashion without victims

Alan Hamilton on Blair's recipe for a palatable state banquet

COOL Britannia was well represented at last night's state banquet for the Emperor and Empress, and a full house of our Royal Family included the Queen and thirteen of her senior relatives. Representatives of war veterans, however, were thin on the ground.

Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, president of the Royal British Legion, was the official representative of the old soldiers; Sir Roger himself is too young to have fought in the Far East. But the only other token of past hostilities was Keiko Holmes, a Japanese living in Britain who was recently awarded the OBE for her reconciliation work among former prisoners of war, and John Nunneley, a Burma veteran and a member

of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, which Mrs Holmes helped to organise and which makes visits to Japan and to Far East war sites and camps.

The full complement of British royals, besides the Queen, Prince Philip and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, included the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York and Prince Edward.

Tony Blair's insistence on looking to the future rather than the past was evident in those guests chosen to represent modern Britain. They included the golfer Colin

Montgomerie, the fashion designers Paul Smith and Alexander McQueen, and the novelist Kazuo Ishiguro.

Political representation was headed by the Blairs themselves, Robin Cook and his new wife Gwynor — attending her first state banquet — and David Trimble of the Ulster Unionists. The old guard was not forgotten: Baroness Thatcher had a seat at the top table.

The guests enjoyed a meal that was avowedly English and gave little concession to Japanese cuisine. Buckingham Palace believes that for-

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SEATING CHART	
Her Majesty the Queen	The Duke of Edinburgh
The Emperor of Japan	The Empress of Japan
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother	The Prince of Wales
The Archbishop of Canterbury	The Lady Irvine of Lairg
The Princess Royal	His Excellency Mr Sadame Hironaka
His Excellency Mr Yukihiko Ikeda	The Duchess of Gloucester
Mrs Carey	The Duke of York
The Prince Edward	Madame Hayashi
The Duchess of Norfolk	The Duke of Gloucester
The Lord Chancellor	The Lady Richard
Mrs Yasuko Abe	Prince Michael of Kent
Captain Timothy Laurence	The Duchess of Grafton
Mrs Blair	His Excellency The Ambassador of Lebanon
The Duke of Kent	Princess Alexandra
The Viscountess Ridley	The Hon Lady Ogby
The Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogby	The Prime Minister
Mrs Lonsmann Poutsen	His Excellency The Ambassador of Japan
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	The Baroness Thatcher
His Excellency The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea	
Field Marshal The Lord Bramall	The Lord Minkosh of Haringey
The Lady Grimthorpe	The Lady Richard
The Earl Marshal	The Viscountess Brookesborough
The Viscountess Brookesborough	Mrs Yuney Choi
The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	The Lord Privy Seal
His Excellency	His Excellency
Mr Makoto Watanabe	

Menu	
Consommé de Vauz aux Champignons Sauvages	
Leop de Mer aux Fines Herbes	
Salle d'Agneau Préalable Petites Potes Gourmandes Pommes Champignon	
Salade	
Soufflé Glacé aux Fraises	
Pâtisserie Montbrachet, Les Perrieres, Domaine Louis Carillon 1989	
Chateau Grand-Larose, St Julien 1981	
Moët et Chandon 1998	
Warre 1970	

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Schools may get paedophile warnings

BY VICTORIA FLETCHER

HEAD teachers may be warned of paedophiles living near schools but parents and pupils could be kept in the dark, according to a joint police and teacher initiative.

A guide will outline when and to whom information about sex offenders is given if they move into school areas and lets police decide whether to inform head teachers, staff, parents and even pupils in the most high-risk cases, according to the Association of Chief Police Officers.

An ACPO spokesman said: "It will be decided case by case what risk is posed by the sex offender and who should be told."

David Hart, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, announced the guide at the opening of its annual conference in Eastbourne yesterday. He said reducing the risk of attack for children was paramount.

Union calls for more pay for good teachers

David Hart says an overhaul of the system is needed to attract vital recruits. Victoria Fletcher reports

GRADUATES would be attracted to become teachers only if salaries for those in the profession are rewarded for raising standards, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that greater financial incentives were needed. His comments came as research for the association showed a critical drop in the number of graduates choosing teaching as a profession. An overhaul of pay structures, which many teachers felt left them earning a much lower rate than the job warranted, was the only way to ease problems in recruitment, Mr Hart said.

Head teachers have previously given warning that the Government's plans for a grade of Advanced Skills Teachers would be divisive. Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Commons Select Committee on Education, has said that teachers should be paid according to their level of performance rather than how long they have served. The big unions representing class-

room teachers have resisted moves towards performance-related pay as divisive.

Mr Hart denied yesterday that he was calling for the introduction of crude performance-related pay. But urgent action was needed to recruit more teachers, he said.

"We need a modern pay structure to attract good graduates to the profession. They won't be put off by a performance element in the system. It won't be crude. I am not in favour of performance-related pay. I am in favour of paying good teachers good salaries."

"Since we are in a situation where good graduates are not coming into the profession in anything like the right quantities and since we are not likely to get an increase from the Treasury, we need to look at more radical, more modern

solutions to a new pay system," Mr Hart told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

"I see nothing wrong in saying that if a teacher is performing well, they should be able to earn a salary which is way above their current salary."

The survey, published as the NAHT began its annual conference in Eastbourne, showed that recruitment of secondary school teachers was one-third lower than government predictions. In subjects such as mathematics, only half the required number of applicants have opted for training, and the overall number of trainee teachers has reduced from 1997 figures.

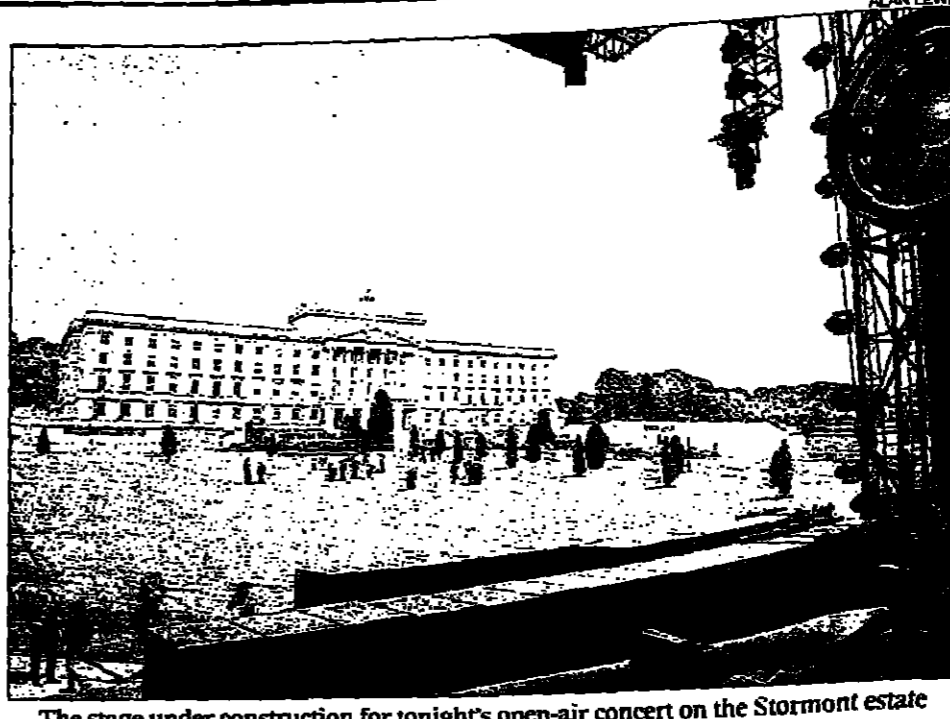
Mr Hart, who is to address the conference tomorrow, said: "Good honours graduates are voting with their feet and seeking other jobs where

the salaries, benefits and overall conditions of employment are more attractive."

Within primary education, more graduates were being recruited to enter training with the Government, attracting almost one-third more students than they had hoped for. John Howson, the independent expert who compiled the report, said that the £10 million government campaign to attract graduates to teaching had not been a waste of public money. Television advertisements on the theme of "No one forgets a good teacher", featuring pop stars, celebrities, and the Prime Minister, had raised awareness of teaching, although other professions still held more attractions, he said.

"There are so many variables operating in the other direction, that it is doubtful whether it is encouraging many into teaching."

The Department for Education said: "We are trying to listen to teachers with the creation of a new General Teaching Council, raise standards and find out what has gone wrong and do our best."



The stage under construction for tonight's open-air concert on the Stormont estate

Elton John gives voice to peace

EIGHT months after giving voice to the nation's grief at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, Sir Elton John will tonight help to celebrate Northern Ireland's dizzying march towards peace with a huge open-air concert in Belfast (Martin Fletcher writes).

He will perform what has inevitably been dubbed his "peace gig" in front of 15,000 fans of both traditions in the unlikely but beautiful setting

of the Stormont estate, the former bastion of Unionist rule where the historic Good Friday accord was negotiated.

"He firmly believes music is a great healer," Keith Bradley, Sir Elton's tour manager, said yesterday as troops of workmen completed the giant, 400-tonne stage on the sweeping expanse of lawn below the neo-Palladian Parliament Buildings.

It was Tony Blair who

invited Sir Elton to perform, but it was Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who had the idea of using Stormont for concerts and other events. Luciano Pavarotti is likely to perform there next summer.

Sir Elton is performing without charge and the concert's proceeds will be used to provide cross-community educational facilities within the 300-acre estate.

Paisley says the Queen is Blair's 'foolish parrot'

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IAN PAISLEY accused the Queen of becoming a foolish "parrot" of Tony Blair's government yesterday.

The Democratic Unionist Party leader, who would consider himself one of the monarchy's most loyal supporters, spoke out following reports that the Queen was to show support for the Good Friday peace agreement by becoming the first British monarch to visit Dublin since Ireland's partition.

"She is very foolish to do what she is doing and I don't think the people of Northern Ireland will take kindly to it," Dr Paisley told a Belfast press conference. "She has become a parrot, and to use the monarchy in that way is of course part of the Labour party policy to discredit the monarchy because they want to finally get rid of the monarchy."

Buckingham Palace refused to respond beyond dismissing the reports of a royal visit to Dublin as "speculative". Downing Street described the reports as hypothetical. But Ken Maginnis, a leading Ulster Unionist Party MP, said that most Unionists would find Dr Paisley's comments deeply offensive and declared: "He really does appear to be

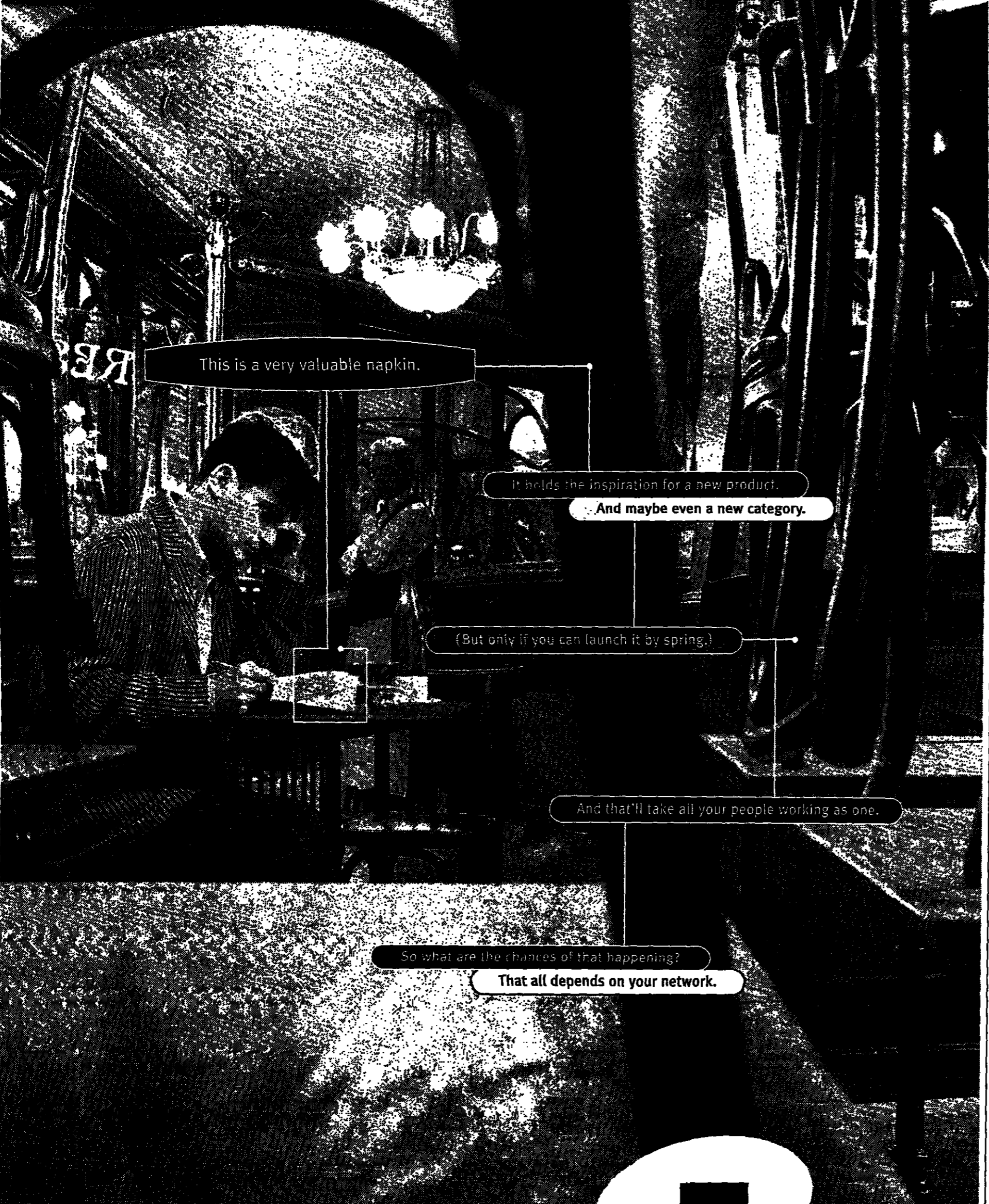
losing it more and more."

Dr Paisley, 72, said later that his remarks had been taken out of context. His outburst eclipsed the launch of his party's campaign for next month's election to Northern Ireland's new Assembly. He denied his party was standing to wreck the Assembly from within, but would work "constructively, peacefully, constitutionally and democratically" to save the Union.

"They would oppose Sinn Fein's participation in Northern Ireland's government without IRA disarmament, terrorist prisoner releases, the destruction of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the formation of an embryonic all-Ireland government through cross-border bodies."

Liverpool has applied to host the British-Irish Council being established under the agreement with representatives of the British and Irish governments and the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish assemblies.

□ Anthony Notoantonio, 40, from West Belfast, was remanded in custody accused of causing an explosion under a railway line at the weekend and possessing explosives with intent.



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Schools held over

Being 'sucks' ageless

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School chaplain held in Germany over child porn

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

THE chaplain at a leading boys' public school has been arrested in Germany and charged with importing child pornography into the country.

The Rev Andrew Swindells, 32, second chaplain at Tonbridge School in Kent, is accused of smuggling sexually explicit videos of children as young as 11 after a police operation investigating trade in pornography.

He was arrested on Saturday, as he was handing a video tape to another man at Munich central railway station, police said. Mr Swindells was seized at the station during a separate operation that was already under way. A police spokesman said: "He was there when we started our raid and we [arrested] him as well. Mr Swindells will be facing trial during the next few days."

He was last night in a police cell while he attempted to raise the bail money. Police in Tonbridge raided Mr Swindells's home following a tip-off from Munich police and various items were taken away.

Late last night Timothy Devlin, a spokesman for Tonbridge School said: "The school is genuinely surprised by these events. As far as the headmaster is aware Mr Swindells has yet to return to this country. His own account of the police interview is not known."

Mr Devlin said the school had not yet been able to speak to Mr Swindells and could therefore not pass any judgement on the charges brought



Swindells: arrested at station "with tapes"

by German police. "We are trying to get in touch with him. It would be quite wrong to judge him on this only. We want to talk to him first and until there is more evidence consider him completely innocent."

The £13,000-per-year school had employed Mr Swindells as second chaplain since 1994. He was also a religious education teacher to the 680 boys between the ages of 13 and 18. In its statement, the school emphasised their chaplain's trip was on private and not school-related business.

Mr Swindells, who had flown into Germany on Saturday told German police that the three-hour tape found on his person was bought in Britain.

The Foreign Office said: "Andrew Swindells was arrested by German police and charged with the importation and distribution of pornography. He is a 32-year-old man from the Tonbridge area. The judge granted bail, however, Mr Swindells has so far

been unable to raise the money required and is currently sitting in a jail cell in Germany."

Pupils at Tonbridge — motto is 'God gives increase' — are currently on half-term from the school. Old boys from the school, founded in 1553, include Lord Mayhew of Twysden the former Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; the novelist Frederick Forsyth and the cricketer Sir Colin Cowdrey.

Last year it achieved one of the highest overall results in Kent for its A level results, and is recognised for its consistent sporting achievements often providing county and national sportsmen.

It is the second pornography scandal to hit the school. In 1989 Gareth Williams, a drama teacher at the school, lost his job after being charged with importing illegal videos. He resigned before facing the charges in court.



The stained glass window in the gallery was found in pieces during the restoration



The Vyne was built in about 1534 for William Sandys

Grand reopening of Tudor palace

By JOHN YOUNG

THE results of a £2 million two-year restoration programme on The Vyne, part of a Tudor palace, will be unveiled next Wednesday.

Douglas Whyte, property manager of the National Trust house in Bramley, Hampshire, said that there were seldom opportunities to carry out extensive works all at once. In this case the trust had followed a policy of not drilling any further holes in the woodwork or stonework. The work, funded by legacies, included replacing obsolete wiring, installing heating and ventilation and fitting temperature and humidity sensors.

The house forms part of the

palace built in about 1534 for William Sandys, Henry VIII's Lord Chamberlain. Most of the palace was demolished during the Civil War, when it was sold to a barrister, Chaloner Chute. One of his descendants became friends with Horace Walpole and the interior design owes much to his influence.

The oak gallery runs the length of the west wing and contains superb carved panelling. At one end a stained glass window depicts a young Italian peasant girl with a picnic. It was found in fragments in a case during the restoration but its provenance remains unknown.

Being over 50 'sucks', admits ageless Cher

FROM GILES WHITFIELD IN LOS ANGELES



Cher: under-appreciated and unlucky in love

ONE of the most enduring stars in the Hollywood firmament appears to have stopped twinkling. Cher, the singer and actress who for decades was a byword for eternal youth, has announced that she is miserable being over 50.

In a candid interview, the Oscar-winning siren from Moonstruck admits that the ageing process has left her feeling lonely, under-appreciated and unlucky in love. "I hate my fifties," she told People magazine. "They suck. I never felt older until I hit 50, and the way I first noticed was through my work. When I was 40 I was playing opposite somebody who was 21 and nobody noticed. Now all you can do ... is look good for your age."

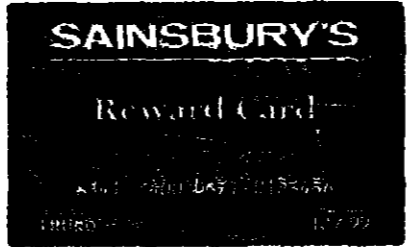
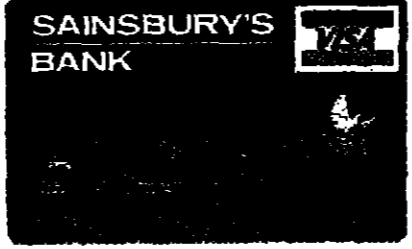
Cher, whose full name is Cheryl Sarkisian, owed her launch in showbusiness to the singing double act with Sonny Bono, who died at Christmas in a skiing accident. She eclipsed him with success on film, in solo recordings and with a string of famous lovers during her years as a walking advertisement for cosmetic surgery.

By her own account, though, nothing can make her desirable in Hollywood at 52. Love is "harder to find when you're older," she says. "I live in Los Angeles, where newer is better and older is useless. But I guess if grass can grow through cement, love can find you at every time in your life."

Cher admits that age has also taken a toll on her career. "There's a certain span — and

I'm very much there — when you have to wait till you can play the Shirley Maclaine/Anne Bancroft roles. So what am I supposed to do? Go camping for 10 years?" In fact, she is appearing in two new films this summer, one of them by Franco Zeffirelli, and releasing a new album later this year. She is also taking a twin-track approach to finding company in her dotage. The first was to announce in People that she is seeking a new man with whom to share her cavernous new 14,000 sq ft mansion in Malibu — "just someone with a great sense of humour who's really creative, fun, sensitive and sweet". The second is to solicit grandchildren from her two children, although there may be problems: her son, Elijah, is a young rock star on the road; her daughter, Chastity, is a prominent lesbian activist.

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Stores' checkout staff are feeling the strain

THE supermarket checkout worker who sighs impatiently while you fumble for your cash, or groans audibly if you ask for an extra carrier bag, may be suffering from more than an attack of bad manners.

Checkout staff are falling victim to strain injuries caused by modern tills that scan barcodes, forcing them to lift huge quantities of goods.

A report by the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday that the strain of working with badly designed tills could cause chronic back injuries and unbearable pains in the arms, neck and shoulders. In some cases the problem was so severe that sufferers were forced to take time off work or give up their jobs, costing businesses thousands of pounds in compensation and lost man hours.

The 140-page report was commissioned after anecdotal reports in the late 1980s that barcode systems were putting undue strain on staff. One researcher discovered that the average checkout operator lifts the equivalent of a small

Lifting equivalent of a small car over scanner is leading to increase in injuries, Peter Foster reports

car over the scanner in one shift. Usdaw, the shopworkers' union, said it had settled more than 50 cases of "work-related upper-limb disorder" since 1990 with payments totalling £210,000. It knew of more than 650 other cases among its members.

Yesterday's report, which has taken almost eight years to complete, filmed 2,000 checkout operators at work to see how the design of tills could be improved to reduce the risk of injury. A checklist has been circulated to local health and safety inspectors to try to reduce the problem.

Doug Russell, the national health and safety officer for USDAW, said the work was more physically demanding than many people realised. "People might think that checkout girls have an easy, comfy job sitting down most of

the time in pleasant temperatures. But in reality it is hard, physical work."

In recent years tills have been designed more scientifically, with conveyor belts, scanners and keyboards carefully positioned so that operators can use all three without turning from side to side. In older stores workers frequently have to load heavy groceries into awkwardly placed trolleys or onto poorly positioned weighing scales.

The report and its recommendations have been embraced by the leading supermarkets, including Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Marks & Spencer, which helped the HSE to carry out its research. Roland Overvoorde, a trading law manager at Tesco, said the report would be a benefit, not a burden, for retailers: "Checkouts are a

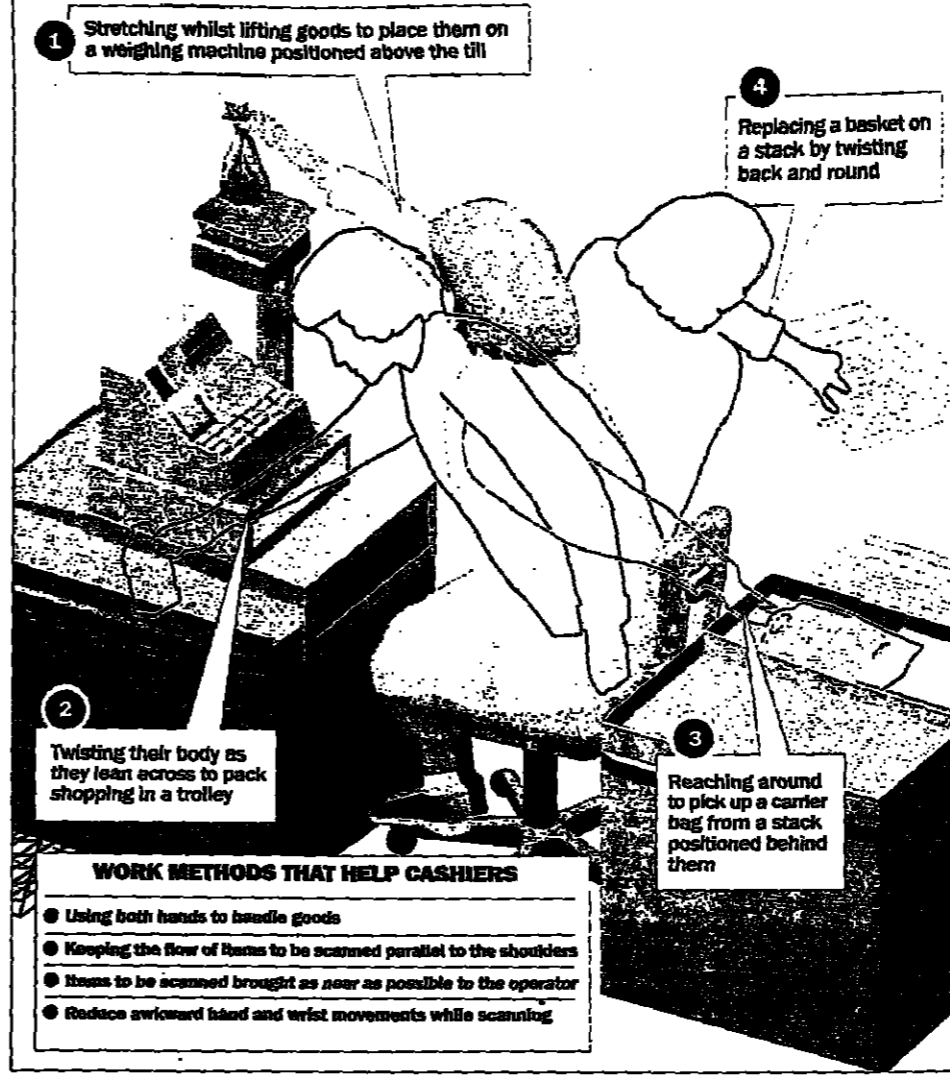
vital place for customer service. We recognise that if the cashier is not comfortable then she will not give good impression to customers."

Ushaw gave a more cautious welcome to the report which, it said, had taken an unduly long time to complete. The research was unable to come up with a standard, or ideal, till design, opting instead for a generalised guidance which the union has criticised as too tentative.

For some, the new HSE guidelines have come too late. Joan Wilkes, 50, suffered shooting pains in her neck and back after the supermarket in Sunderland where she worked introduced new tills in 1992. The pains, caused by leaning over with heavy groceries to fill trolleys, became so severe that she signed off sick three months later and has not returned to work since.

Two years ago she settled out of court with the chain for £35,000 and today still suffers the same symptoms. "I cannot even do simple things like knitting or mowing the lawn without pain," she said.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mountain rescue team targeted in £2,500 theft

First-aid equipment worth £2,500 has been stolen from a mountain rescue team's Land Rover at the scene of a fatal plane crash in North Wales. The RAF vehicle was parked more than 2,000ft up the Tryfan peak in Snowdonia as the team tried to recover wreckage from the crash on Saturday that killed Shaun Booker, 25, the pilot of the light aircraft, and Paul Pountney, 28, his passenger. Mark Hall, the RAF team leader, said the theft was sickening, especially when the Land Rover was marked mountain rescue. "The stretcher can only be used in specialised mountain rescue work - it has no other value," he said.

Oxford on Net

Oxford University is to put two undergraduate computing courses on the Internet from next January. The Department for Continuing Education said: "They will bring the Oxford tutorial within reach of the distance learner."

Pub attack

Maureen Kent, landlady of the Shoulder of Mutton at Walton upon Trent, Derbyshire, was critically ill after she was hit by a car, then run over, as she tried to stop a man and a woman getting away with a charity box.

Beans allergy

A student was recovering in hospital after the cooking smell from red kidney beans in chilli con carne triggered a strong allergic reaction. Kate Bailey, 18, from Bristol, collapsed after her lips and throat started to swell.

Guilty conscience

Police in Gloucester are searching for the victim of a pub assault after the assailant gave himself up. No one has made a complaint. A police spokesman said: "If anyone out there would like to get in touch, we know who did it."

Help on the way

The Automobile Association is to station four break-down patrols near World Cup venues in France next month. Pete Mason, 41, one of the four AA patrolmen volunteers, said: "Overheating is going to be the main problem."

Lengthy delivery

Rob Llewellyn, an obstetrician from Swansea, flew 16,000 miles to oversee a difficult delivery at Port Stanley Hospital in the Falkland Islands, which does not have a specialist. The mother had a bouncing boy.

Champion athlete runs on tuna sandwiches

BY A CORRESPONDENT

STEPHEN O'NEILL, 17, may have more than rigorous training and running skill to account for being Yorkshire's junior 800-metres champion.

The young athlete munches up to 25 tuna sandwiches a day. His packed lunch of 15 tuna-filled sandwiches has fellow students at St Aidan's School in Harrogate staring in disbelief.

For breakfast Stephen usually has four to six tuna sandwiches and he has up to four more for supper. For tea he relents slightly and will have a plateful of pasta or rice with tuna, and for the odd snack he allows himself an apple or a cake.

At 6ft 2in and weighing 11 stone 5lb, he reckons if anything he is underweight. "I know it sounds boring but I like tuna - and lots of it. I can eat as much as I like and not put on any weight."

"My dad gets sick of making me all these sandwiches. We buy industrial-sized tins of tuna so we always have plenty in store."

Stephen, who says his appetite helps him to keep up his training, fits in his tuna sandwiches between daily running sessions and studying for his A levels next year.

Villager return sent to

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Townies reap best countryside jobs

Michael Hornsby on whether rural regeneration schemes do more harm than good

RURAL job creation schemes are destroying the beauty and tranquility of the countryside without providing more employment for local people, it is claimed today. Too much rural development is drawing in people from the towns rather than meeting local demand for jobs and affordable housing, according to the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

approach to rural development which asks the right questions before planning permission is granted," Alastair Rutherford, head of rural policy, said. "Is the proposed development going to improve the quality of life for local residents, or just suck in people from neighbouring towns?"

Research by the Department of the Environment which shows that in some areas nearly 80 per cent of jobs created by the conversion of rural buildings go to people who commute, usually by car, from towns and cities near by. In the village of Peldon in Essex, 11 out of 12 workshop units in former farm buildings were rented by car repair and paint-spraying businesses whose owners and employees all commuted daily from Colchester, five miles to the north.

local communities to measure proposed new developments against a checklist of 22 questions, such as the impact on the environment, the kind of traffic that would be generated and whether new jobs would go to existing residents.

quality of life for rural people without causing unnecessary damage or harm." The CPRE's criticisms were challenged by the Rural Development Commission, the government agency charged with the regeneration of the rural economy, and by the Country Landowners' Association, which believes that planning regulations are too restrictive.

prospect that they will recruit and train local people in the future as they grow and expand." Marie-Helene Baneth, the landowners' association's adviser on rural economics, said: "Ideally, new development should provide jobs for local people but even if that is not immediately the case it can play a vital role in keeping rural communities alive."

Call to beautify forests ignored, says WWF

By Nick Nuttall

FORESTS in Britain continue to be planted with monotonous conifers in spite of international moves towards local varieties that beautify the landscape and encourage native plants and animals.

The claim is made in a critical report, published today by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, which attacks the Government for failing to embrace guidelines agreed at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 and Helsinki in 1993.

Steve Howard, a forest expert with the charity, said that about 70 per cent of new and replantings in Britain were of sitka spruce, a North American import, which had "limited aesthetic appeal and biodiversity value".

Dr Howard said there should be more pressure to plant oak and beech. There were some small pockets of the New Forest, under Forestry Commission control, which enjoyed excellent management, he said, but too many sites were unprotected and vulnerable to overgrazing by deer and other populations of overstocked animals.

He highlighted concern with Gleneshie forests in the Cairngorms, a fragment of the once-mighty Caledonian forests, which is said to be "dying on its feet" because of overgrazing by deer.

Dr Howard said: "If we cannot protect even this fragments of remaining, semi-ancient woodland, then we have no right to preach to the developing world."

The charity's report, Forest Scorecards, has been carried in advance of the Third Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe taking place in Lisbon from next Tuesday. It ranks countries by their efforts to boost forest cover, give woodlands legal protection, deal with pollution, plant native species and manage woodlands in sensitive ways. Britain is 12th out of 15.



The crates in California that hold the oak-timbered barn

Villagers call for return of barn sent to America

By Simon de Bruxelles

AN HISTORIC English tithe barn bought by the newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst and shipped to America 70 years ago has been found languishing in boxes in a Californian warehouse.

Villagers from Bradenstoke in Wiltshire are now asking for help from the National Lottery to repatriate the medieval building and re-erect it on the site on which it stood for more than 500 years.

The 1048-long barn fell victim to the tycoon's mania for collecting architectural gems in the days before ancient buildings were protected. He bought the Augustinian Braden-

stoke Priory, founded in 1142, to which the tithe barn belonged, in 1925 and set about stripping it. The Great Hall became part of his Welsh castle, St Donat's, in the Vale of Glamorgan, and the barn was shipped to Hearst Castle at San Simeon, California, in 1928.

By the time it got there three years later, the tycoon's interest had waned and in 1960 it was sold to Alex Madonna, a hotelier who wanted to use it for wedding receptions. But because of earthquake restrictions, Mr Madonna was refused planning permission and the barn remains in crates on his estate, exactly as Hearst's craftsmen packed it.

Bradenstoke's residents, some of

whom can remember the priory complex before it was demolished, are calling their campaign ROB - Return Our Barn. They are hoping that the hotelier, who recently said that he had not given up his dream of incorporating the barn into the Madonna Inn in San Luis Obispo, can be persuaded to return it.

Pamela Grigg, 48, said: "What Hearst did to this barn amounted to nothing more than vandalism. The barn was built in Bradenstoke and we are desperate to get it back. We are only a small village and obviously have not got a lot of money, so we hope to apply for grants from the lottery and the Government."

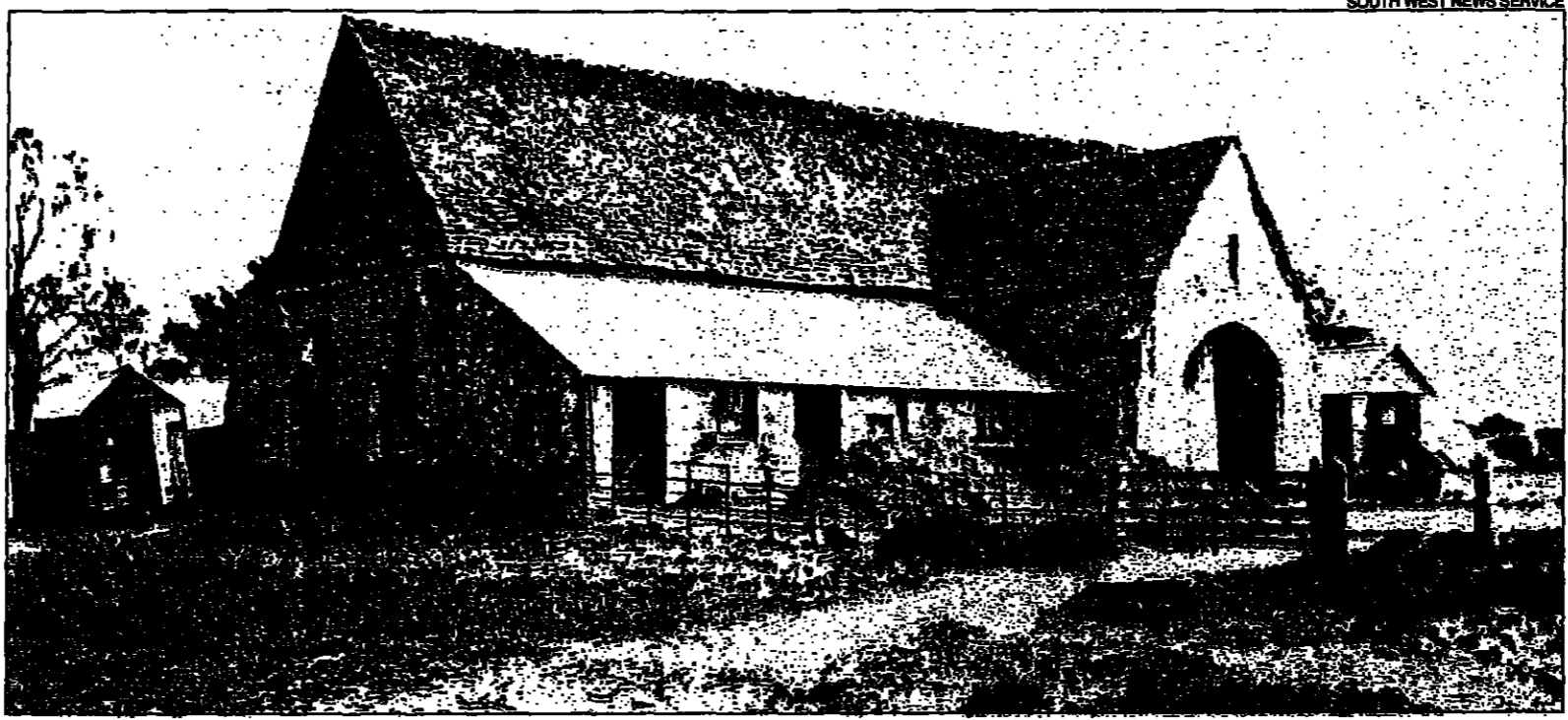
John Rowland, a retired RAF pilot

who lives locally, traced the barn to Mr Madonna's warehouse. He said: "It is a pity that a building of such historical importance was moved in the first place and then kept in crates so that generations of people in this village have never got to see it."

Hannah Skull, 88, was one of the priory's last residents. She moved in with her father, William Swarbrick, when his employer, Herbert Storey, bought the estate and appointed him farm manager. Mrs Skull said: "It was an absolutely lovely place. Even today I can still vividly remember how beautiful it was. It was a perfect home for an inquisitive child, the ideal playground for me and my friends to let our imaginations run

wild. Then Randolph Hearst arrived. He bought the priory from Mr Storey and almost immediately set about dismantling it. I believe he would never have sold the building if he had known what Hearst would do. I remember how the teams of workmen literally took it to pieces and labelled each section before it was carried away. I was terribly upset when it went because we lost the home I had grown up in. It would be lovely if this barn was restored again."

All that remains of the priory is some ancient brickwork, the foundations of the undercroft and a gnarled walnut tree under which she remembers playing.



The tithe barn at Bradenstoke Priory, founded in 1142, was bought by William Randolph Hearst, below, and shipped to California in 1928



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Vicky Harper campaigned for a murder trial and traced samples that are said to show Rebecca died before fire

Girls' family lose fight to reopen death case

Parents may seek private prosecution over twins, says Michael Horsnell



The identical twins Emma, left, and Rebecca

THE case against three young men who were cleared over the deaths of twin sisters seven years ago will not be reopened, the Crown Prosecution Service is expected to announce today. The decision will leave the family of Emma and Rebecca Harper to consider other legal remedies, including private prosecution or civil action.

The 17-year-old church choir girls were found burnt beyond recognition after a blaze in a barn at Uckington, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The three men had been with them in the barn but escaped without burns. The girls' family has produced a pathologist's finding that Rebecca was dead before the fire started.

Vicky Harper, 44, who has campaigned for a murder trial, mistakenly traced all the remaining tissue of her daughters' bodies at different pathology laboratories.

From the samples, the leading pathologist Iain West re-examined the forensic evidence earlier this year and concluded that Rebecca was

not killed by the blaze. That conflicted with the evidence of the pathologist Ian Hill, who originally examined the remains and advised police that there were apparent traces of soot in the lungs, suggesting that the girls had perished in the fire. The men were acquitted of arson and manslaughter.

Mrs Harper and her husband, Steve, an accountant, are expected to make a statement today.

Martin Kay, the publisher of Mrs Harper's book *Double Take*, about the case and its

devastating effects, said: "The weight of the evidence is overwhelmingly that there is a case to answer. However, I am not optimistic that the legal system can satisfy the burden of proof required to bring the case back to court."

It was on January 23, 1991, that the identical twins had gone to the Saddle Stones pub in Cheltenham with Emma's boyfriend, David Harper (no relation), and met his friends Danny Winter and Wisdom Smith.

When the pub closed the five went by taxi to a farmer's barn

near David Harper's home. Mr Harper said that he lit two handfuls of hay for "two or three seconds" to see where he was going in the barn and, at about 1am, the barn was alight.

Dr Hill's findings meant that charges against the men were reduced to manslaughter on the basis that they were reckless in burning the hay and could have done more to help the twins to escape. On the seventh day of their trial, Mr Justice Auld instructed the jury to clear Mr Winter and Mr Harper, 21, who said he and his companions fled in panic, not knowing if the girls were still in the barn, was acquitted by the jury.

Dr West, a Home Office pathologist and head of forensic medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, agreed to examine the samples traced by Mrs Harper and concluded that pigmentation on the lungs, which could have been seen as carbon particles, was caused by formalin solution that had been applied to fix the tissue after death.

The pigmentation came away when treated with picric acid and there was no soot in the lungs.

He concluded: "In my opinion the appearance of Rebecca's lung tissues is entirely consistent with her being killed prior to the onset of the fire."

Legal sources said that defendants acquitted of manslaughter could be charged subsequently with murder but that defence counsel would have a strong case to argue abuse of process in court.

Football fans who can't kick the habit

BY MARK HENDERSON

FANATICAL football supporters may be as hooked as compulsive gamblers are on betting, according to one of Britain's leading experts on addiction.

Fans who turn up to watch their team in good times and bad, exhibit many common symptoms of addiction, which may cause problems in their domestic or working lives, Mark Griffiths, of Nottingham Trent University, said.

"There are people who are so fanatical about the game they show all the classic signs of addiction," he said. "There are football fanatics who spend vast sums of money on the game and suffer withdrawal symptoms. No matter how their team plays, they feel compelled to get their fix as often as possible."

Dr Griffiths, who specialises in addictions, is to conduct a two-year study of football supporters to test the psychological effects of following a team. Extreme fanaticism may require treatment, he suggested. "I am trying to ascertain whether football fanaticism boils down to addiction by causing problems domestically and in the workplace," he said. "It's those who live or work with football fanatics who I'm most interested in. I want to know what kind of effect such behaviour has on them. Only then can we gauge if it's a problem which requires a strategic approach, such as offering counselling to couples or help to those who skip work to watch the big games."

Screens to show free festival highlights

BY GILLIAN HARRIS
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ARTS lovers fed up with queuing for returns to see popular shows at the Edinburgh Festival will be able to enjoy this year's highlights free of charge.

Two giant screens in Princes Street Gardens will transmit the best of the festival for up to eight hours a day. If the Festival Revue is a success it could be extended next year. Paul Blyth, whose video and event production company is behind the venture, said the festival could be shown live in Glasgow, London and New York. The revue will also give millions of people an opportunity to see the show on the Internet.

"I think that this project is really about creating a global keyhole through which people can view the Edinburgh Festival," Mr Blyth said. "It will offer short, sharp bursts of entertainment."

The video screens will operate throughout the festival, showing two to three-minute clips from hundreds of performances. There will also be previews and interviews with performers.

Mr Blyth said: "Since many of the popular acts appearing at the festival sell out in advance, the possibility to transmit live shows to the screen from other venues will allow a much larger audience to experience the major attractions without affecting ticket sales."

The festival runs from August 16 to September 5. Website: www.festivalrevue.com

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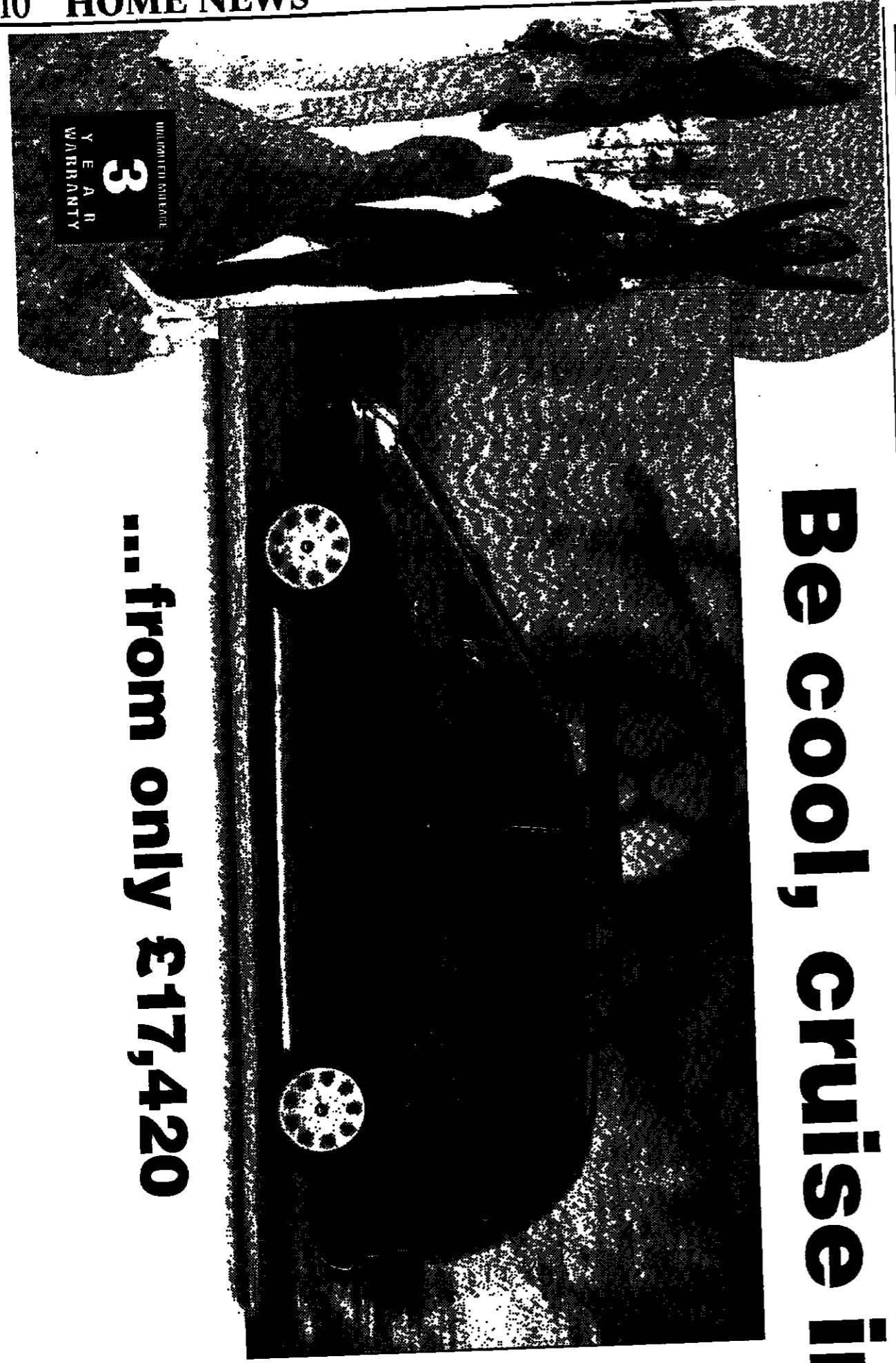
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Families launch own inquiry into missing seamen

Women believe that sunken trawler may have been rammed in Bay of Biscay, reports Simon de Bruxelles

THE families of four Cornish fishermen who perished with their trawler in the Bay of Biscay have commissioned a private investigation into the sinking amid suggestions that it may have been rammed. The women have raised nearly half the £300,000 cost of recovering the bodies from the wreck of the *Margaretha Maria*, which sank last November. She sank in apparently calm waters so suddenly that there was no time to radio for help.

The women commissioned a survey of the wreck, which lies in nearly 400 ft of water, 65 miles southwest of Land's End, after accusing the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau of dragging its heels. The bureau's inquiry into the accident has yet to begin because it is awaiting the response to tenders for the task. The damage shown by pictures taken by underwater video cameras which surveyed the wreck last week has fuelled suggestions the vessel may have been rammed. Charles Hattersley, a solicitor

acting for the women, said: "While it is too early to speculate regarding the cause of the incident, there are clear signs on the video of significant structural damage." He wants to establish how the sinking happened, to present a report to the families and if appropriate, to pursue a claim for compensation against whoever is thought responsible.

The *Margaretha Maria* was not heard from after leaving the port of Newlyn, Cornwall, on November 11. Moira Todd lost her husband, John, 45, and son Kerry, 24. Tracy Marshall lost her husband, Vincent, 33, and Rose Williams lost her long-time partner Robbie Holmes, 43, who was the skipper. Mr Holmes and Mr Marshall each left three young children. After Mr Holmes's body was pulled up in the nets of another Newlyn trawler on February 13 Malcolm Chope, co-owner of the *Margaretha Maria*, called on the bureau to organise a new search. The Royal Navy minesweeper *HMS Atherstone* found the wreck early in March and an unmanned submarine identified it.



Tracey Marshall lost her husband, Moira Todd her husband and son, and Rose Williams her partner, Robbie Holmes (below), the skipper

The women have been trying to raise money to recover the bodies so that they can be given a proper funeral. Mrs Todd, 46, wrote to Britain's leading companies appealing for donations after becoming frustrated with the bureau's lack of action. Trelawney Fish, owners of the *Margaretha Maria*, pledged £5,000 and one anonymous donor contributed £100,000. Friends and relatives in Ireland raised more than £13,000 with a sponsored walk. Seven-

ty people took part in the 15-mile walk, organised by Mrs Todd's brother-in-law, from her hometown of Newcastle to her husband's, Kilkeel.

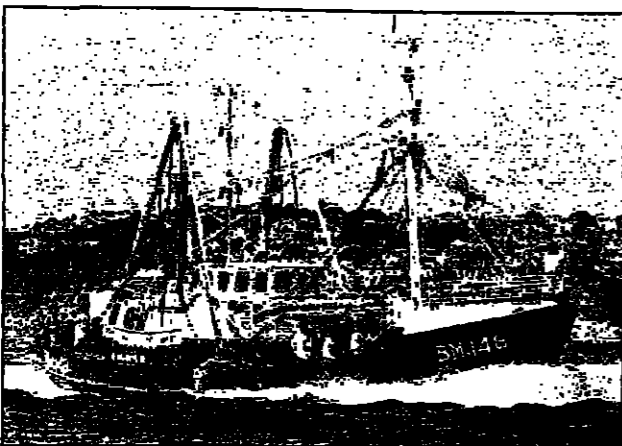
Mrs Todd, spokesman for the families, believes the trawler sank on the night it set sail although the search was not started until it failed to return the following week. The boat had a satellite distress beacon that was never activated and two life-rafts that were not used. Two cameras operated from the underwater sur-

vey vessel *Terschelling* took over six hours of footage of the wreck last week. The women watched the tapes on Sunday.

Sitting in her cottage near Serpen, Mrs Todd said: "We felt that we had to do this ourselves because the MAIB have taken so long. I have letters from the MAIB telling me that the seabed is a dignified grave but I don't know anyone who believes that. I want my husband and son's bodies back home." She said their results would be

offered to the MAIB and the next step would be to get the bodies recovered, with or without the bureau's help.

Dave Stewart, of the bureau, said yesterday: "If they have evidence that they would like us to see we would be most grateful for it. Our remit is to discover the cause of the sinking. The vessel will only be raised if it is decided that it contains evidence which cannot be obtained by other means." The MAIB investigation is due to start next month.



The *Margaretha Maria*, which sank last November

Boobytrap was more than an inconvenience

By DAMIAN WEITWORTH

FOR youths rolling home from the pub in Darwen, Lancashire, Paul Humphreys' outside privy made a shortcut across his land all the more worthwhile. So he decided to inconvenience them.

Humphreys' booby trap was not of the bucket-of-water-on-top-of-the-door variety. His collection of wires, mines, blank cartridges, detonators and security lights owed more to the guerrilla warfare school of surprise.

Not that intruders should have been surprised. Signs erected by Humphreys, 43, read: "Alarms, Mines, Keep Out!" Every night at 11pm he carefully set his traps and every morning at 6am, when his wife got up for work, he painstakingly dismantled them. His own neighbourhood watch scheme kept undesirable out for some 18 months. And if an unsuspecting police officer searching

for stolen property had not triggered a trip wire, it might have continued unnoticed.

But Humphreys was fined £100 with 54 costs by Blackburn magistrates and ordered to pay £75 compensation after he admitted criminal damage to the officer's coat.

Elizabeth Reed, for the prosecution, said officers searching the property were told by Humphreys' wife that there were no keys to the shed and toilet. PC David Wilson proceeded to unscrew the bolts from the shed door, which faced the garden path. There was a loud bang and a flash and he felt his fleece jacket burning.

Mrs Reed said the officer noticed a small hole in the door. Putting his eye to it he saw a metal device screwed to the wall, which consisted of a blank shotgun cartridge, a spring and a pin held under tension above the cartridge

primer. Lengths of nylon fishing line linked the cartridge to a cup hook on the kitchen wall, which was the anchor point for the trip-wire.

Mrs Reed said PC Wilson decided at that point not to open any more doors. The house was quickly crawling with firearms officers.

Paul Schofield, for the defence, said Humphreys had pleaded guilty on the basis of recklessness but had never intended harming anyone. He told the bench that Humphreys bought three mines for £5 each after seeing them advertised in a magazine.

"All his neighbours welcomed the installation because everyone on Hazel Avenue was annoyed by the constant passage of trouble-makers. They all knew about the devices and thought it was a good idea. It was an unofficial neighbourhood watch scheme."

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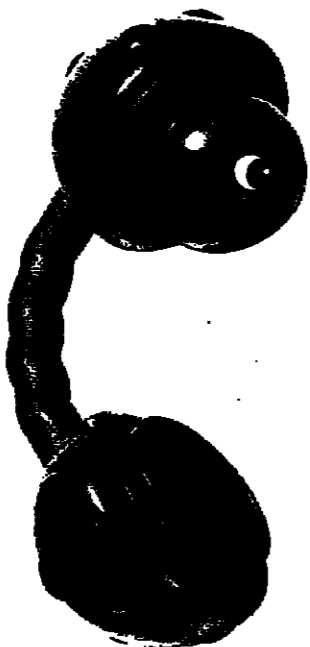
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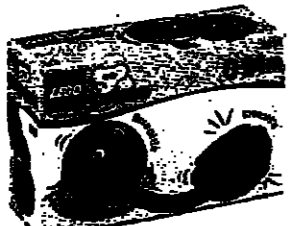
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Hayashi: confession averted death penalty

Tokyo cult's doctor gets life

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

IKUO HAYASHI, chief doctor of a terrorist doomsday cult, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for spreading nerve gas on the Tokyo subway system.

Hayashi, 51, once "health minister" of Aum Shinrikyo, narrowly escaped a death sentence for his part in the 1995 attack that killed 12 people and injured more than 3,000.

Megumi Yamamura, the presiding judge at Tokyo District Court, decided to show leniency because the former heart surgeon had made a full confession that helped in the prosecution of other cult members, including Shoko Asahara, the Aum founder. Prosecutors had asked for a life sentence.

Hayashi and four others released sarin on crowded commuter trains using umbrellas to puncture plastic bags full of the gas. Asahara, accused of masterminding the attack, is still on trial.

Australia says sorry for woes of Aborigines

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA issued an apology to its indigenous people yesterday in a national Sorry Day aimed at acknowledging the mistreatment of Aborigines during more than two centuries of white settlement.

But while many people accepted the invitation to make amends for the country's past misdemeanours by signing more than a thousand sorry books, the Government steadfastly refused to be part of what it sees as a carefully orchestrated, politically correct response to the dubious side of Australian history.

John Howard, the Prime Minister, said Aboriginal disadvantage was best addressed by health, housing and education. "A formal national apology of the type sought by others is not appropriate," he told parliament.

John Herron, Aboriginal Affairs Minister, also insisted it was not necessary to issue an apology to achieve reconciliation. "We don't believe all Australians should be asked to

apologise for acts they did not commit," he said. That view was shared by several state government leaders, including Richard Court, Premier of Western Australia, who said the National Sorry Day would not help to foster understanding. "Many Australians feel that they are in a way being forced to show some guilt and some people don't feel any guilt."

Elsewhere, however, the day's events produced a genuine outpouring of national guilt. Judges, councillors, police chiefs, viceregal representatives and thousands of ordinary citizens apologised on behalf of earlier Australians for the sins of their forefathers. Gordon Samuels, Governor of New South Wales, said: "Without honest acknowledgement of the wrongs and injustices of the past, we cannot successfully move together into a just, fair and secure future."

The Chief Justice of Australia's Family Court called on the judiciary to apologise to the thousands of Aboriginal children taken from their families. Justice Alastair Nicholson said such an apology would lift indigenous communities' confidence in the courts which, in general, had "not succeeded in serving the Aboriginal people".

The treatment of the so-called Stolen Generation — the estimated 100,000 young



Judith Darcy, one of the Aborigines' Stolen Generation, wipes away tears as she is consoled by her daughter, Rebecca Stubbs, during a National Sorry Day ceremony in the gardens of Government House in Sydney

Aborigines forcibly removed from their homes by well-meaning white welfare groups until the 1970s, is arguably one of the most shameful chapters in modern Australian history. That it was sanctioned by the courts has left many Aborigines with a deeply ingrained distrust of Australia's judicial system. But to what extent yesterday will make amends is a matter of intense public debate.

Correspondence pages in the newspapers and radio programmes suggest the country is evenly divided. The move to assuage past misdeeds is, however, gathering at a pace. One plan involves Botany Bay, where Captain Cook stepped ashore to claim Australia for the British 228 years ago; some want to return to its original name — Guawil.

Pam Allen, New South Wales's Environment Minister, said: "While the first landing of the crew from the ship Endeavour is seen by many as the birth of this multicultural nation, it also marks the beginning of an era of dispossession and disadvantage for indigenous Australians."

South Africa turns its back on National Party

White voters want a convincing opponent to take on the ANC, R.W. Johnson writes

SOUTH AFRICA is rife with speculation that the National Party — which held power unbrokenly from 1948-94 — may be on the verge of disintegration.

In a series of municipal by-elections the NP has been repeatedly trounced by the liberal Democratic Party, even in white working-class and Afrikaans-speaking areas where the DP was hitherto lucky to win 10 per cent of the vote. These municipal earthquakes came to a climax with the NP's loss of Rosettenville in south Johannesburg recently, a poor white area described by the NP as its safest seat. In the event the NP won less than 10 per cent of the vote and the DP nearly 90 per cent. The NP has also suffered a steady flow of defections of councillors and even

former ministers to the DP and also to the United Democratic Movement of Bantu Holomisi and Roelf Meyer. The ANC, gleeful at the trauma of its old enemy, has tabled a motion in parliament calling on the NP to "depart from the political scene in a dignified way" rather than become a laughing stock.

The DP, for its part, makes no secret of the fact that it is privy to the proceedings of the NP parliamentary caucus, as panic-stricken caucus members flock to the DP to tell all and wring their hands over their desire to abandon ship.

The problem is that the constitution effectively forbids MPs from crossing the floor, and party bosses are given the power to dismiss any MP who defects to another party, instantly cutting off his salary and his political career.

The NP suffers from several apparently incurable problems. Above all, it is still seen as the party of apartheid. With voters continually reminded by the revelations to the Truth Commission of the appalling cruelties this policy entailed, no amount of horn-again denunciation of apartheid by the NP comes close

to expunging this moral stain. The past hangs like an albatross around the party's neck.

The problem has been compounded by the NP's choice of Marthinus van Schalkwyk as leader. Mr van Schalkwyk is an intelligent and articulate young man but his past record as a police informer on his university campus hardly helps. Worst of all, his inexperience is patent and his youthful image is altogether lacking in the seniority and gravitas which the NP has historically demanded of its leaders. The nickname affixed to him by the ANC in parliament — *klein baas* (little boss) cruelly sums the problem up.

The NP still has a bedrock of Afrikaaner ethnic support and more

than half its voters now come from the Coloured and Indian groups, fearful of African encroachment and attracted by the NP's tough law and order image.

However, the NP's problem is that white voters are increasingly disgruntled by the revelation of massive corruption in public service, the declining efficacy of nearly all public institutions and the clear inability of the Government to carry out its promises or even maintain law and order.

What such voters want is vigorous opposition to the ANC and this the DP provides far more clearly and effectively than the NP, which, after 46 years in power, has proved quite incapable of adapting to the rigours of opposition.

Habibie seeks to soothe Chinese

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

AS A senior representative of the International Monetary Fund arrived last night promising a quick recommendation on the next stage of Indonesia's loan package, President Habibie continued his attempts at reconciliation.

Having released two well-known political prisoners, he went to Chinatown in an attempt to reassure locals as they repaired damage done by the looting. He said racism had no place in Indonesia and suggested that in future local traders should form vigilante groups until the army could come to their aid.

Last night Dr Habibie was due to meet Hubert Neiss, the IMF's Asia-Pacific director. The IMF board is expected to make a fast decision on the next tranche of the more than \$40 billion (£24.5 billion) package for Indonesia.

Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office Minister, is due to arrive tonight.

UN acts to curb sex slave trade in Asia

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

OVER the past 20 years, 30 million women in South-East Asia have been involved in the sex trade — almost three times the number of slaves shipped across the Atlantic in America over four centuries.

The figure is an estimate by the United Nations, which has launched a campaign to fight the trafficking in prostitutes and sex slaves from developing countries. Next month the UN is to hold a special session in New York to look at the links between drugs, money laundering and the smuggling of humans.

Governments hope this will lead to a new UN convention to help them crack down on global organised crime.

The sex trade is one of the fastest-growing and most lucrative forms of international crime. Millions of women, mostly from rural areas, have been forced into prostitution in cities by gangs promising them jobs and riches or smuggled abroad to be kept virtual prisoners in foreign brothels.

"It is the world's biggest violation of human rights," Enzo Arlacchi, executive director of the UN Drug Control Programme, said after talks with the British Government.

He blamed globalisation for the explosion of trafficking in women and child prostitutes. The cost of communications was now so low that millions of people travelled around the world in search of sex. Prostitution, which used to be limited by tradition and custom, is now part of a global market. And the demand, mainly from Western Europe, Japan and America, has had a devastating impact on the Third World, and on South-East Asia especially, Signor Arlacchi said.

Australia announced yesterday that it plans to introduce laws imposing prison sentences of up to 20 years on anyone forcing people into servitude to curb the influx of sex slaves from South-East Asia. About 300 indebted Thai women have been found working as sex slaves in Sydney brothels.

Signor Arlacchi said the UN was approaching the trafficking in people from a criminal angle. Evidence showed that those dealing in drugs and illegal arms often also turned to the smuggling of women and immigrants.

He estimated that the number of sex slaves, illegal immigrants and children sent to sweatshop factories totalled 200 million.

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Islamic activists held over threat to World Cup

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

POLICE in five European countries arrested more than 80 suspected Islamic militants yesterday in a massive operation to head off possible terrorist activity during the World Cup in France.



Paris police bring in a suspect yesterday

Fifty-three people were detained in simultaneous dawn raids in France, and others were arrested in Italy, Belgium, Switzerland and Germany. The operation came just two weeks after eight suspected Islamic militants were arrested in London, and two weeks before the start of the football tournament. The French Interior Ministry described the arrests as a "preventive" measure, "after months of surveillance which allow one to presume that terrorist actions were being prepared with the approach of the football World Cup". Police sources said the operation was intended to dismantle suspected support networks for Algerian Islamic guerrilla groups rather than counteract any specific terrorist bombing threat. At least 120 warrants have been issued across Europe and further arrests are expected, the sources said. Police also confiscated documents and large quantities of cash in the co-ordinated swoops on at least ten sites in Paris, Lyons, Marseilles and Corsica. *Le Monde* reported that the Algerian, Tunisian and French nationals arrested in France yesterday were sus-

pected of links with Hassan Hattab, alias "Abou Hamza", an Algerian believed to be the leader of the European wing of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the most militant of the fundamentalist groups fighting to overthrow the Algerian regime. The swoop was co-ordinated at a recent meeting in Paris. The French Interior Ministry said five people were arrested after raids in the German cities of Cologne and Bonn. One of those detained was identified as Abel Mechat, who is considered to be the chief lieutenant to Mr Hassan. Prosecutors said they will extradite two Algerians to France. In northern Italy police detained nine suspects and said the move was "closely linked to investigations car-

ried out by police and legal authorities in other countries into a vast organisation traceable to the GIA". The Italians code-named the raids "Operation Crusades", a somewhat inflammatory allusion to the medieval Christian missions to capture holy sites from the Muslims. The GIA, which blames France for providing political and economic support for the Algerian regime, was held responsible for a series of bomb attacks in France in 1995 in which eight people died and scores were injured. Investigators said that suspected Islamic militants in Europe had shown a marked increase in suspicious activity in the run-up to the World Cup. Stefano Dambrosio, an Italian prosecutor, said that telephone calls intercepted in Germany between suspected members of an Algerian fundamentalist group were "more and more about arms and false documents, passports and identity cards". Belgian police raided ten sites in Brussels and another in the southern city of Charleroi. In Switzerland a spokesman for the public prosecutor's office confirmed that a "major police operation" was under way outside Zurich, involving Algerians. French police have been on high security alert since the discovery two weeks ago of an unexploded bomb similar in design to those used in the 1995 bombing campaign. Alan Coren, page 18 Football, page 44



The Château de Saumane, a publicly owned tourist attraction which has been sold for £1.1 million because of the maintenance costs

De Sade's home to be a guesthouse

Praised as a literary genius, condemned as a libertine, the marquis still sparks debate, writes Ben Macintyre

THE childhood home of the Marquis de Sade in the south of France is being turned into a guesthouse, despite strenuous objections from some local officials who say the building should be preserved by the state as a monument to the 18th-century writer, aristocrat and sexual libertine. Donatien Alphonse François, Marquis de Sade, remains a controversial figure in France, seen variously as a literary genius and a monstrous criminal pervert — or both. Sale of the Château de Saumane in Provence, where the "divine marquis" lived from the age of five to 11, has reopened debate over his life and legacy.



De Sade: classic status

The 12th-century château, on a hilltop near Fontaine-de-Vauchuse, was sold on Monday for £1.1 million (£1.1 million) to a couple who reportedly plan to take in paying guests. Purchased by Vaucluse council in 1980, it was turned into a language centre, but officials decided to sell because maintaining the building had reached more than £36,000 a year. Many councillors objected in vain, arguing that the region could be deprived of valuable tourist revenue. The young marquis was

raised there under the dubious care of his uncle, the Abbé Sade d'Ebreuil, a Catholic priest, writer, friend of Voltaire and notorious debauchee who lived with two women, a mother and daughter, and openly patronised local prostitutes. Life there, with its library of "forbidden books" and licentious moral climate, may have had a profound effect. De Sade's biographer, Maurice Lever, writes: "Taken from his mother at the age of four, transported to a princely palace on a rocky summit, imprisoned in a fortress with a libertine priest, and sur-

rounded by debauched women: all the ingredients of a Sade novel are present in this early traumatic experience." The guesthouse plan has inevitably raised sniggers, and *France-Soir* leeringly reported that the owners "exquisite guest rooms for all those who wish to dream of the celebrated ghost and, who knows, to share the fantasies of the young marquis". But the newspaper also quoted a local council official as saying that the purchasers were "completely honourable people who have made a number of written commitments" to keep the castle open to the public. Objections to the sale are more on the grounds of economics than taste, and Christian Challet, Mayor of Saumane, may yet intervene to preserve the château as a publicly owned tourist attraction. With its network of subterranean tunnels and cells, it was almost certainly de Sade's model when he wrote in *The 120 Days of Sodom* of the Château de Durcet's "vaulted dungeon

sealed by three iron gates and containing all that the cruellest art and most refined barbarity could invent in the way of atrocity, as much to terrify the senses as to perform the most horrifying acts ...". De Sade's in-laws were enraged by his taste for horrifying acts, even though his religious wife attempted to rescue him from persecution. The marquis was repeatedly imprisoned for assaults and attempted murder of prostitutes. He was removed from the Bastille days before it was stormed, and then escaped the

revolutionary guillotine through a bureaucratic mistake. Napoleon later imprisoned him again without trial as a threat to morality, and he died in 1814 in Charenton lunatic asylum. De Sade's name became a byword for the most extreme cruelty and for decades his works, including *Justine* and *The 120 Days of Sodom*, were banned in France, although read widely in secret. In recent times he has attained classic status as "an apostle of freedom who dared to expose society's hypocrisies in sexual matters". In 1990 the first volume of his complete works was brought out by the French publishers Pléiade — the ultimate mark of literary acceptability.

Truckers drop strike threat

Paris: French lorry drivers yesterday retreated from a threat to paralyse the World Cup after mounting a one-day nationwide strike (Ben Macintyre writes). Roger Poletti, the militant leader of the Force Ouvrière truckers' union who has repeatedly threatened to disrupt the championship in pursuit of a new wage deal, said there would be no further strike action before September. Lorry drivers' barricades caused some major traffic jams yesterday, mostly in

southern France, but M Poletti admitted that the strike "has not produced everything one might have wanted". M Poletti, who is himself a football fan, has been forced to tone down his threats because of mounting political pressure and evidence of waning public support for the lorry drivers' stance. "Obviously, blockading roads around cities during the World Cup would not be well received by the public," he said. The drivers are demanding higher pay and the honouring of pledges they

claim were made after a big strike last year. The drivers' threat to cause transport mayhem was only one of several disputes looming over the World Cup. Airline pilots at Air France, protesting at a 15 per cent wage cut, have voted to strike from June 1. Rail workers, teachers and even police have given warnings that protests could be timed to coincide with key World Cup matches. The Government has appealed to unions not to hold the tournament hostage in pay disputes.

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Mafia boss caught with his 'Lolita'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A MAFIA gangster arrested this week after three years on the run had been living with a 14-year-old girl "as man and wife". Sicilian police reported yesterday. Pino Guastella, 44, known in underworld circles as "The Strangler", was arrested on Sunday when armed police raided his flat in the Passo di Rigano quarter of Palermo. He was taken by surprise and "still had shaving cream on his chin", police said. But they were astonished to find he was not alone: there was a teenage girl asleep in his bed in her nightdress. As Guastella was dragged away, she clung to him and pleaded with police officers, sobbing: "But I love him." Guastella asked police to "get her dressed and bring her to jail, too", but she was taken to a home for child offenders and will be dealt with by a juvenile court. Police said they believed this was the first time a Mafia boss had been found to have a sexual relationship with an underage girl. The girl, who was not named, has been dubbed "The Lolita of the Sicilian Mafia" and "the gangster's moll with a baby face" by the Italian press. Police said she was the daughter of another mafioso. Although illicit sexual liaisons are frowned on in the Mafia "code of honour", Guastella's relationship with the girl was apparently known about and even approved of by her family. "He was faithful to her and had serious intentions," one underworld source told *La Stampa*. Guastella, who worked for



Guastella: found living with underage girl

the powerful and notorious Bagarella clan, was wanted on charges of kidnapping, extortion and murder. He had a reputation as "the hitman who never fails", and in one case allegedly strangled a rival mafioso with his bare hands. But the Italian authorities have launched a crackdown on the Mafia, arresting a series of Cosa Nostra bosses, and with the help of informers had kept Guastella under surveillance and tapped his telephone. Police said the raid "took less than a minute" and Guastella had not had time to reach for his gun. He had in any case been handicapped by the presence of the girl, and apparently feared that she might be injured in a shootout. Reports said the couple had a "genuinely loving relationship". The "Mafia Lolita" cooked for the wanted man, did his shopping and cleaned his flat, which had a giant TV set, a refrigerator and an exercise bike. She did not attend school, had no friends of her age and had "none of the amusements girls of 14 normally have", police said.

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Users of these products are advised to carry a second auto-injector with them and to consult their doctor or pharmacist if they have any concerns.

ALK (UK), who can be contacted on 01189 313200, stress that all other batches can be used with full confidence.

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UN acts to curb sex slave trade in Asia

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Police attack Arab leaders in Jerusalem

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

MEMBERS of the Palestinian parliament fought club-wielding Israeli police with their bare fists yesterday inside Jerusalem's Old City during violent protests over tin shacks erected by Jewish militants in the Muslim Quarter.

The violence was some of the worst seen involving Palestinian politicians, and observers believe it could have grave repercussions on the shaky peace process. Israel Radio said the security forces "seemed unaware they were dealing with VIPs".

About 20 Palestinian legislators were pushed and shoved in the mêlée at the scene of the latest Jewish settlement activity in the part of Jerusalem annexed by Israel after capturing it from Jordan in the 1967 war. Two of the Arab MPs, including the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation's senior Jerusalem representative, Faisal al-Husseini, were bleeding from arm wounds.

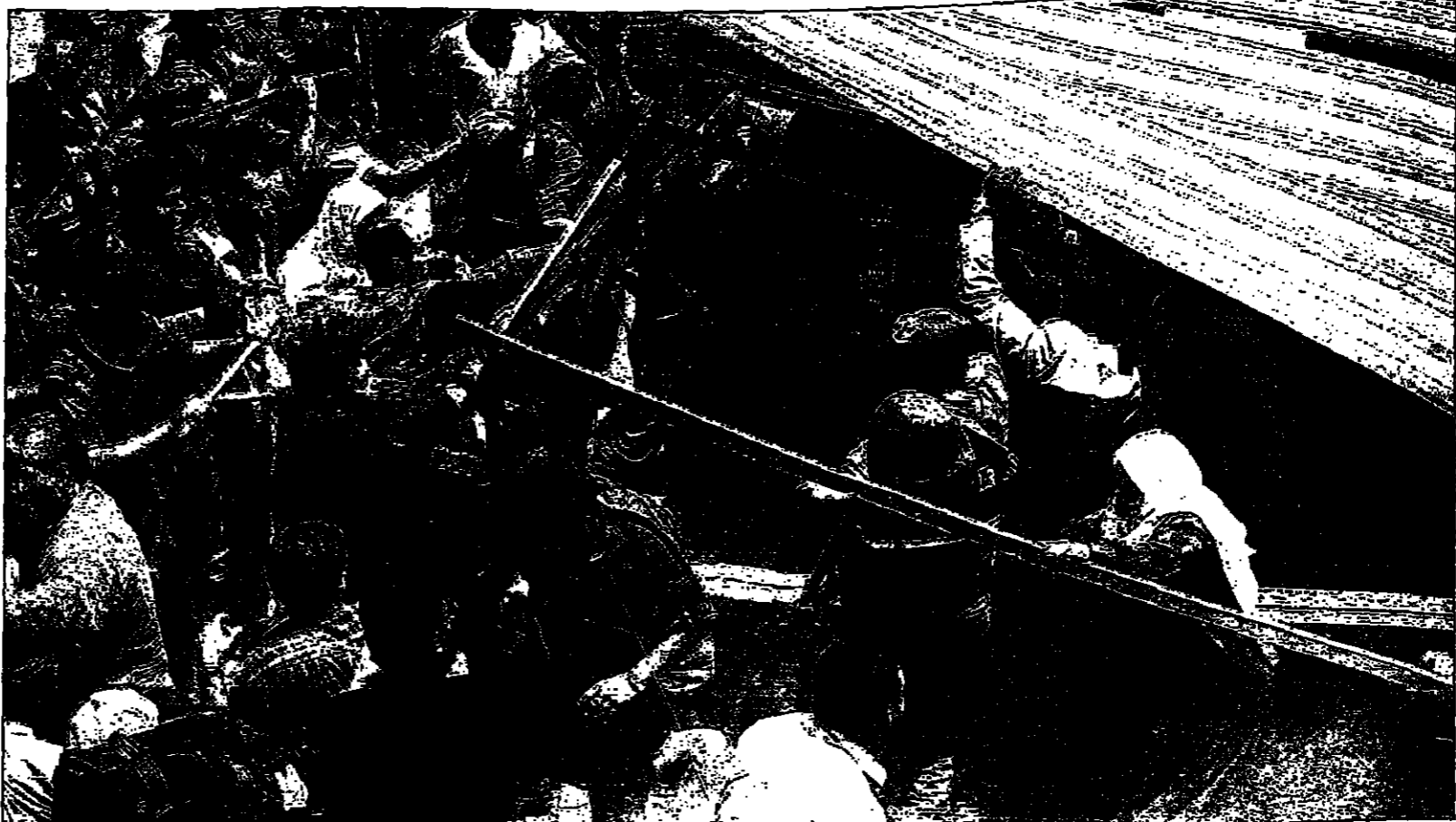
Other Palestinian protesters tore down one of the seven shacks that had been erected overnight by members of Ataret Cohanim, a group that has been settling Jews in Arab neighbourhoods of disputed east Jerusalem.

Ahmed Qureia, Speaker of the Palestinian parliament, gave a warning over a megaphone that the protests might spread if Israel continued what he claimed were "provocative actions". He said: "The Israeli Government and the United States should know that the Palestinian people's patience is running out." Mr Qureia, chief negotiator of the 1993 Oslo peace accords with Israel, said: "We will not

accept peace that comes at the expense of our land and our rights." He added: "Tomorrow there will be demonstrations to express rejection of what is happening. We will not believe that this is a settlers' move — no, it is a move taken by the Israeli Government."

Ataret Cohanim claimed it owned the one-quarter acre site located just inside the historic Herod's Gate into the Old City. It admitted that building permission had not been received and that an Israeli court had issued a temporary order to stop work. Ehud Olmert, the Mayor of Jerusalem, said the shacks would be torn down if the group failed to dismantle them.

The Israeli Antiquities Authority had obtained the order to halt construction since the



Israeli riot police battle with Palestinians yesterday as they tear down an illegal shack erected by settlers in Jerusalem's Old City

work was harming an archaeological site. "All of the Old City is classified as one big archaeological site," the authority said.

But Klila Harnoy, spokeswoman for Ataret Cohanim,

said: "The battle is about preserving the unity of Jerusalem. We can only do it by building and renovating."

One of the Arab legislators, Saeb Erekat, a leading peace negotiator, said: "What hap-

pened today will have serious consequences for the peace process. It only leads to friction and violence; we do not need it. I hope that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu knows that he is pushing

the Israelis and Palestinians into a circle of violence."

Israel Radio quoted Mr Netanyahu, on an official visit to China, as saying that the dispute should be dealt with by legal means.

□ Marjayoun: A pro-Israeli militiaman was killed, two wounded and two civilians injured in an artillery exchange in south Lebanon, security and militia sources said. (Reuters)

Palestinians and Israelis unite to ban sex aid pill

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE Israeli and Palestinian authorities have united in rushing to issue warnings of the dangers of taking Viagra, the anti-impotence pill for men, for which there has been a huge demand in the Middle East.

Within hours of each other, the Israeli Government and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority ordered doctors and pharmacists to stop dealing in the supposed wonder drug after worries provoked by the unexplained deaths of six users in America last week.

Yaakov Katz, the Israeli Health Ministry's representative in Tel Aviv, went further and said that bogus pills that look like Viagra could be the next counterfeit medicine to reach Israel and the occupied territories from a factory in Lebanon's lawless Bekaa Valley, which Interpol believes is one of the world's largest producers of fake drugs.

Mr Katz told *The Jerusalem Post* that, according to experts, 80 per cent of Viagra pills sold worldwide on the black market are not the real drug, which is produced in America by Pfizer. It is likely that the counterfeit pills are harmless but useless, he added.

The Palestinian Authority's

Health Ministry gave a warning against using Viagra, which is being sold illegally in the self-rule areas under Palestinian control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We recommend that men do not take Viagra and warn pharmacists and merchants not to disseminate the drug," said Ziad Shaat, who is responsible for the Health Ministry's pharmaceutical division.

A Palestinian newspaper has reported that Viagra is being smuggled into the territories, home to 2.5 million Palestinians, from Egypt and is being sold for 100 shekels (£17) a pill, compared with the price of 62 shekels at which it was being sold within Israel on prescription through personal imports — now temporarily halted.

It is not known if the pills coming from Egypt are the real thing or are counterfeits. In Egypt, where the black market price is 40 Egyptian pounds (£7) a pill, Egyptian men have been clamouring to get their hands on the drug.

□ Jeddah: Four Saudi men have been treated in intensive care units after taking Viagra, newspapers reported. Three men were taken to hospital in Egypt after using the anti-impotence pills. (AFP)

Yeltsin may scrap old Arctic subs

Moscow: President Yeltsin offered yesterday to scrap all Russia's old nuclear submarines moored near the northern port of Murmansk — if Norway provided loans to finance the operation (Robin Lodge writes).

Mr Yeltsin made his proposal during talks in Moscow with King Harald V of Norway, who is visiting Moscow. Norway has long been concerned about the environmental threat posed by nuclear reactors and other waste from the Soviet Northern Fleet, based close to the Norwegian border. About 100 decommissioned submarines, many with reactors still on board, are rusting away, awaiting dismantling and disposal.



Yeltsin: wants Norway to fund a clean-up

"We could remove all our old submarines from the entire Barents Sea region and declare the region a security zone," Mr Yeltsin told the King, according to the official Tass news agency. The two signed an agreement on environmental protection in the region.

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Portillo warns US of federal Europe threat

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MICHAEL PORTILLO, the former Defence Secretary, is warning the United States that monetary union and the common foreign policy of a federal Europe will fracture the transatlantic alliance.

In a speech tonight to the American Enterprise Institute, the conservative Washington think-tank, Mr Portillo will argue that an integrated Europe will benefit neither global security nor free trade.

America should recognise that, far from bolstering its position in Europe, future European foreign policy may silence the special relationship and lead to a block in opposition to the United States.

Describing the concept of single exchange and interest rates as economic madness, Mr Portillo will explain that the European economic and monetary union and the euro are merely the foundations of a protectionist European state.

"What I really want is for a debate to emerge in the United States about what the European movement is really about," said Mr Portillo last night. "Americans essentially are committed to global free trade, while many in Europe are not."

"And I think they need to be careful about whether a common foreign policy in Europe might lead to a silencing of the British view, the emergence of a consensus to do nothing, and the emergence of a distinct view that there was a third way, a new and positively anti-American way."

Mr Portillo will encourage

Washington to abandon the long-held beliefs of the State Department that a diverse collection of European nations is more dangerous to American national interests than an integrated continent.

While extremist nationalism has been a cause of past wars, he said, there was no reason to believe that abolishing the nation states and creating a European state in their place would eradicate nationalism.

Mr Portillo, whose address comes in the wake of a similar critique of monetary union by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, believes that a single currency will lead to less democracy and new causes of grievance for those who have relinquished their sovereignty for the euro.

"Imagine what might be the impact, once we have a single

currency, on people in parts of Europe suffering from recession," he said. "The substantial barriers to free movement of labour prevent them from seeking work elsewhere in Europe. They cannot vote to change the policies that have left them jobless, because those policies are made above the level of national government and beyond democratic control."

He will argue against boosting the power of the European Parliament to fill the democratic deficit. While the United States, despite its size and ethnic diversity, has discovered a shared set of values, Europeans have not.

This divergence of opinions, he said, was clearly illustrated in the different approaches to foreign policy which have so often frustrated America. The many disagreements, for example, which emerged over the Falklands conflict, apartheid in South Africa, the Gulf War and subsequent attitudes towards Iraq, as well as policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Mr Portillo said that countries which had offered support to America in the past, over Libya or Iraq for example, had been in a small minority. Under a common foreign policy they would be outvoted, while the long history of co-operation between Britain and the United States, particularly in terms of diplomacy and defence, would be abandoned in favour of an untested European view.



Portillo: fears EU could override British views



Creature comfort: President Clinton kisses Buddy on his return to the White House

WORLD IN BRIEF

Bosnia Nato troops 'bought child sex'

Belgrade: Nato has ordered an inquiry into allegations that Italian soldiers serving in Bosnia were involved in a child prostitution ring run by the Sarajevo mafia (Tom Walker writes). The investigation comes after the Spanish newspaper *El Mundo* claimed that the soldiers, sent to Bosnia in 1995, regularly bought sex from girls, some as young as 12. The newspaper alleged that the trade, uncovered by Spanish intelligence officers a year ago, was partly controlled by Italian officers. Italy's Defence Ministry denied the claims.

Two die in tourist bus crash

Lisbon: Twenty-six British and German tourists were hurt, two seriously, when their tour bus, which was travelling to the Expo 98 world fair here, veered sharply to avoid a crash and tipped over near Mimosas, 62 miles south of the Portuguese capital. The overturned bus was then struck by a car. Two Portuguese men were killed in the accident, which involved two lorries. The dead men were both in the same vehicle. (AP)

Belgium destroys gas bombs

Poelkapelle, Belgium: The Belgian Army has opened a plant in Flanders to destroy 21,000 decaying shells, many containing gas, 80 years after the First World War ended. It will take 15 years to dismantle the current stockpile at the rate of 20 a day. "Yearly we collect about 200 tonnes of ammunition," Commandant Alfons Vander Mast, the head of the Belgian Army bomb disposal unit, said. (AP)

TB top killer of young women

Stockholm: Tuberculosis has become the principal killer of women between the ages of 15 and 44 in poor countries, the World Health Organisation said. More than 900 million women worldwide are infected, a seminar in Gothenburg was told. "Wives, mothers and wage-earners are being cut down and the world isn't noticing," the WHO said. The disease is most widespread in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. (AP)

Church to beg forgiveness

Vatican City: The Catholic Church and its faithful will ask forgiveness for past errors, including contempt for Jews and heretics, during millennium celebrations, Vatican officials said. As part of the celebrations, which begin on December 24, 1999, and end on January 6, 2001, the Pope may visit Iraq as part of a trip to Biblical sites in the Middle East and he will deliver daily blessings during the 54-week festivities. (Reuters)

Congressmen urge Clinton to honour Teddy Roosevelt

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A CENTURY after his courageous exploits in the Spanish-American War, a campaign has been launched to award President Theodore Roosevelt a posthumous Medal of Honour, America's supreme military decoration.

Tweed Roosevelt, his great-grandson, and bipartisan members of Congress are urging President Clinton to make the award to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the battle for San Juan Hill, in which Colonel Roosevelt led his cavalry troop through bursts of Spanish fire.

"I waved my hat and went

up with a rush," the future President wrote later.

One of the first to reach the top of Kettle Hill on the Santiago Heights, Roosevelt killed a Spanish soldier before plunging, almost alone, towards the enemy-occupied crest of nearby San Juan Hill. Rushing back to rally his Rough Riders, he renewed his assault, won the day and stormed into history. He always claimed later it was the greatest day of his life.

Critics since have claimed that politics denied him the Medal of Honour, the American equivalent of the Victoria Cross; backbiting members of

President William McKinley's Administration were eager to put the popular and ambitious Teddy in his place.

A citation was approved all the way to the desk of Russell Alger, then Secretary of War, who rejected it, many believe, because Teddy Roosevelt had become an outspoken critic of his department.

In 1998, however, it appears that politics are weighing heavily in favour of the 26th President, whose place in history has rarely been higher. A Bill in the House urging Mr Clinton to grant the award has 158 Democratic and Republican sponsors.

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Martina Hingis: The coolest suits for summer

Till Death Us Do Part: The Mail-Order Bride Murders By Robert Draper

Rob! Booty-Shaking at Louisville II By Allison Glock

Plus: Peter Bart, Edward Sorel, James J. Franco, Thomas Mallon, Peter Richardson & Lawrence Sanders

New look: Martina Hingis is transformed for GQ magazine

That's why the lady is a vamp

We think we know her well, having watched her bluff those balls on the tennis court for nearly four years. Thwack, grunt, grimace and another match is won. Then a hitch of the skirt, a bashful smile and a twinkle of sweat on her teenage brow. Goodbye, fans — here, keep this towel as a souvenir — it's off to the next tournament in Florida, or Paris or California or Barcelona, with mother (always with mother) in tow.

Tennis champ Martina Hingis has come of age — off court with a sexy new image, says Tunku Varadarajan



Old style: Hingis on court

Michael Kors. It is a scanty, feisty white spandex number — a body-bugger with cutouts at the waist — that begins a long way below the collarbone and ends a long way above the knee.

white, she leans towards the camera, disclosing more cleavage than one would see in a decade of Wimbledon. In others, she strums a tennis racket as if it were a guitar, looking much like a woman from a Bryan Ferry video or a presenter on MTV.

her GQ interviewer, she says 18 is the nicest age a girl can be because she can look for men. And she reveals that men are beginning to notice her, too. The dilemma, she concedes, is that her boyfriend is going to have to be a tennis player: "You tell me what else. A businessman who is 35? A reporter? What will they do, travel with me everywhere?"

Trapped on a golden treadmill

Over the weekend the Duchess of York attended the Monaco Grand Prix in the company of the bizarrely named Count Gaddo della Gherardesca. Gadding about with Gaddo you might say, indeed, where the Duchess of York is concerned it has become culturally compulsory to make such cracks — to chuck another coconut at the side-show. She is the Aunt Sally of our public life, our very own Queen of Tack and Tacklessness. More worryingly, she is also our Guess the Weight Doll.

The Duchess of York looks good and has paid off her debts. Grace Bradberry wonders if it's not time we stopped picking on her

liberty to encourage the sport, not because it is morally right but because it falls within the bounds of the Code of Conduct. The Duchess has signed another contract with Weight Watchers in America. She has put her body in the public domain, so to speak, and we are free to prod it, poke it, plot it on our graphs.

curious way, this is what we expect. She must look as if the stuffing has been knocked out of her, both metaphorically and in a fleshy sense. And so the battering continues, and what a very cruel sport it is.

extravagant she was in running up £3 million in debts, we really ought to admire her diligence in paying them off. Other women might just have gone bankrupt and left the Royal Family to feed and clothe the children.



Moving target: the Duchess of York is perfect for taking a pop — she's rich, posh and she's no intellectual

My bottom is like live ferrets jumping around in a bag

another trip to the United States, Beatrice is reported to be distraught. Surely the Windsors should put avoiding such emotional trauma before bringing justice to bear on the erring Duchess?

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Men behaving broodily

It used to be thirtysomething women who were desperate for babies. But now many men find their ambition to be fathers thwarted by career-obsessed partners. Anjana Ahuja reports

The current state of Des Nolan's life could be squashed into one of those personal advertisements in the better weekend newspapers: "Tall, fit, good-looking, 37-year-old company director with own London house seeks outgoing blonde for romance, maybe more. Oh, and must want children."

they have met a woman, seen them for several months, but instead of settling down she wants to reach the peak of her career or go round the world. Men are not finding it as clear-cut as it used to be.

Fortunately, Nolan doesn't mind waiting: "I don't want children at any cost, it's got to be with the right person. I have seen too many of my friends go through broken marriages. But I don't want to spend time with people who are not quite right." For that reason, meetings arranged through the agency can be quite peremptory.

He admits that peer pressure has been a powerful influence on his desire for fatherhood: "Most of my friends have children and you do feel the odd one out. My friends are always asking when I'm going to settle down and have kids. It makes you reflect on what you want out of life, especially now that I have achieved what I always wanted to in my work."

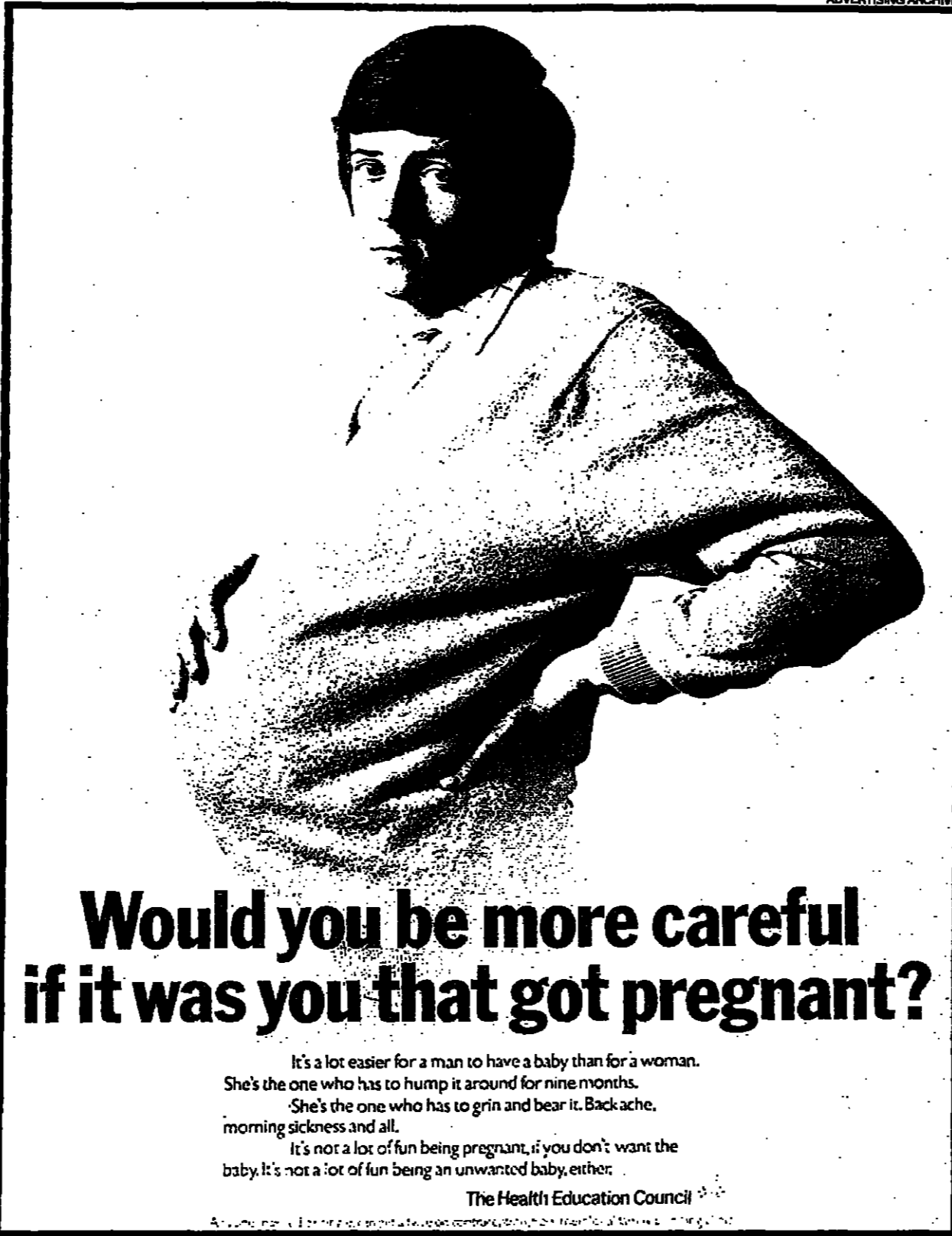
He occasionally looks back wistfully on his past relationships. "It never seemed the right time to have children, either for me or my then partner, so it never happened." This exposes another obstacle for modern would-be parents — timing. Rather than leaving it to fate, like our parents did, many men and women approach the matter with an almost clinical sense of timing. In Nolan's case, he wanted to wait until he had got his recruitment company up and running; the problem of waiting for the perfect time is that he now needs a like-minded woman with a suitable gap in her diary.

Nigel Walker, a sound engineer, is, at 27, ten years younger than Nolan, yet he has already decided that he would like to become a father. He is so serious about it that he does not intend to waste time having relationships that are unlikely to end in fatherhood. But there is a problem: "Women my age get broody when they play with babies, but when you start talking seriously to them about having children they get scared and say they are too busy with their careers."

And now that women have more confidence and are earning their own money, the well-established pattern of relationships — monogamous romance, marriage, family — is melting away. Expectations are different — ask a woman where she wants to be by the time she's 40, and she is as likely to answer "executive director" as she is to reply "happily married, with babies". Moreover, many women are embracing the chance to enjoy commitment-free encounters, just as men have always done. The social agenda is changing rapidly.



Clunes: broody



Would you be more careful if it was you that got pregnant?

It's a lot easier for a man to have a baby than for a woman. She's the one who has to hump it around for nine months. She's the one who has to grin and bear it. Backache, morning sickness and all. It's not a lot of fun being pregnant, if you don't want the baby. It's not a lot of fun being an unwanted baby, either.

The Health Education Council

Expecting too much: the social agenda is changing rapidly and men who cling to a traditional outlook are left bewildered

men who cling to a traditional outlook are left bewildered. "There is so much choice nowadays that people don't want to commit," Walker says. "Everything is available. Women can sleep with whom- ever they want, and simply take the morning-after Pill. People no longer necessarily equate sex with a relationship: they jump into bed first and then think about a relationship afterwards."

"Perhaps I am cynical but there seems to be a pessimism about the whole thing. People almost don't expect relationships to last and, because it's a self-perpetuating cycle, the low expectation sets them up for failure. But that is because they are not willing to make a go of it, to ride out the rough bits. If our parents thought like that, most of them would not be together. Perhaps we are not growing up properly."

James Steen, the Editor of

Punch, and his wife, Louise Gannon, 32, a freelance journalist, are the proud parents of ten-month-old Charlie. About a year before Louise became pregnant, Steen says, he began getting broody. However, as is typical of many successful career women, Louise felt that, for the time being, her job should take priority. But soon after deciding to work from home, she conceived by accident.

"I was like many other working women," she says. "You think 'I'll wait another six months so that I'm more settled', but if you think like that, you'll never do it. Even when I left full-time work, I wanted to freelance for a year before thinking about having children." Although Charlie was unplanned, they feel that he could not have arrived at a better time. "Lots of people, like me, think there is never a right time," says Louise. "In fact, there is never the wrong time."

The couple have many professional friends, men and women, who consider themselves too busy to hold down permanent relationships and start families. "I feel particularly sorry for the women," says Steen, 32, "because they are under enormous pressure to delay motherhood. Now they are beginning to despair of ever meeting the right man, especially as lots of people get snapped up in their twenties." As a result, he thinks, men have to look harder to find women who yearn for parenthood.

A child also seemed the only thing that was missing from their lives. "Louise and I had a lovely house and we were financially comfortable. But although it's a cliché, the house felt like a house, not a home." Steen's happy childhood, alongside his brother and two sisters, also influenced his desire to become a parent. "I had the perfect role model in my father and, in a funny way, I want to strive to recreate the happiness of my childhood."



Des Nolan: searching for a like-minded woman



James Steen: had the perfect role model in his father

These days men must actively seek fatherhood



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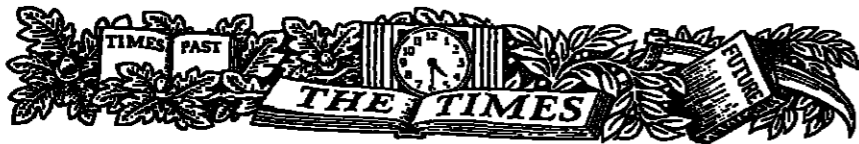
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ON THE MALL

The scars of war and the smile of hope

It was their right to protest. So Tony Blair acknowledged, even as he pleaded that the Emperor and Empress of Japan should be given a "warm welcome" in this country.

Empress, he emphasised, could ever forget the many people who had suffered. "At the thought of the scars of war that they bear," he said, "our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain."

FAITH AT SEA

Schools should not abandon regular Christian worship

The knowledge that the sea of faith was receding once prompted melancholy reflections. By Eastbourne beach this week, however, the trend towards secularism is being encouraged.

Government. The attempt to strip assemblies of their Christian character and replace them with a "moral" content free of religious taint runs contrary to popular sentiment and accumulated wisdom.

BUREAUCRATIC HAZE

Laws are no good unless they are enforced

As surely as the cuckoo heralds Spring in the countryside, so a smog alert marks its return to the capital. With the first sunshine comes asphyxiating pollution, setting eyes itching and asthmatics fumbling for their inhalers.

for a clean air campaign, has been little publicised. Who even knows the telephone number, or has any faith that action will be taken? Hopes have been blanketed in a bureaucratic haze.

Exceptions prove press code success

From Lord Wakeham, Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Media, truth and consequences", May 23) is quite right to point out that no law specifically regulating payments by newspapers to criminals would be workable.

He is also quite right to point out that policing a self-regulatory code is a difficult job where newspapers and magazines have a public-interest defence available to them.

I would make one final point. A great deal of attention has been paid to the role of newspapers and of the PCC code. But our code cannot function in isolation from the outside world.

Teenage parties

From Mr T. P. Wallace

Sir, Bridget Harrison's feature, "No parents! Let's party!" (May 19), makes very depressing reading. There seems to be a triumphalism and a conviction that the behaviour it describes is perfectly normal.

Yours faithfully, T. P. WALLACE, 15 Stoneleigh Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 8XQ. May 19.

From Mrs Simon Wainman Sir, Bridget Harrison, along with many other former teenagers, may remember with nostalgia her days and nights of trashing her friends' parents' houses.

Dissent on causes of climate change

From Mr Ronald Eyres

Sir, When Professor Philip Stott (letter, May 18) writes that "climate is governed by millions of variables, from volcanoes to sunspots, and it will continue to change... whatever we do about carbon-dioxide emissions" he offers little help in clarifying a complex issue.

Arms export charges

From Mr Michael Clapham, MP for Barnsley West and Penistone (Labour) and Mr Ken Purchase, MP for Wolverhampton North East (Labour Co-operative)

Sir, We are writing in respect of the withdrawal by the DTI of the charges against Astra Holdings plc and chairmen accused of exporting arms to Iran and Iraq in the 1980s - the BMARC affair (report, May 19).

Now it seems that a measure of justice has been granted Gerald James and his colleagues. We congratulate Margaret Beckett for putting an end to charges which in our view were brought deliberately to obscure the truth about the illegal export of arms.

Turkish attire

From Mr Erdogan Iscan

Sir, Mr Peter Brooks's perception of the Turkish people in his cartoon today is entirely wrong. The drawing of a "local person" in no way reflects the reality.

Hole in one

From Mr George Thompson

Sir, The Royal and Ancient Golf Club says (report, May 21) that the game should be played "for pleasure not profit".

From Mr Christopher K. Bear

Sir, Professor Stott is correct in his assertion that there is currently an "over-emphasis on the possible role of greenhouse-gas emissions". All too often arguments rage over the contribution of forest fires, car exhaust fumes and industrial emissions to global warming.

Round Church

From Dr Peter Robinson

Sir, Ruth Gledhill's article, "Prescott intervenes in listed church row" (May 15), raises important issues. The Parochial Church Council of Cambridge's Round Church, with the support of the Ely diocesan authorities and Cambridge City Council, wants to present visitors to this important building with a full explanation of its 850-year history.

This is not preserving the national heritage. This is a publicly-funded body bullying a small group of people who have already proved their credentials by saving the church of St Andrew the Great in the centre of Cambridge.

From Professor Geoffrey Lewis, FBA

Sir, I formed the impression that you took Turks to be some kind of Arab from a leading article on November 15, 1997: "The same Arab countries that once mobilised against Saddam - Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, even Kuwait - are now isolated from the American Administration."

Harrow theft case

From Sir Michael Connell, Chairman of the Governors, and the Headmaster of Harrow School

Sir, In recent days your pages have carried extensive reports of the trial of a former master at Harrow School who was accused of misappropriating funds paid for holiday expeditions.

Earthly vengeance for blasphemy

From Dr Suhail Hasan, Secretary of The Islamic Shari'a Council

Sir, Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali's article, "Persecution, Pakistan and the Prophet" (May 18), is conciliatory but inaccurate. Muslims and Christians do need to learn to co-exist, but adjustments to the Islamic Shari'a are not the way forward.

There are a number of Koranic verses on the subject under discussion. For the sake of brevity, I quote only one (5:33):

The punishment of those who wage war against God and his Prophet and do mischief in the land is only that they shall be killed, or crucified, or their hands and their feet be cut off on the opposite sides, or exiled from the land. That is their disgrace in this world, and a great torment is theirs in the Hereafter.

I agree with Bishop Ali that Muslims and Christians do need to learn to co-exist, but this must be based on mutual respect and tolerance. We expect Christians to show the same respect and honour to Prophet Muhammad that Muslims show to Prophet Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully, SUHAIL HASAN, Secretary, The Islamic Shari'a Council, 34 Francis Road, E10 6PW. May 19.

Headlight flashing

From Mr Ken Peter

Sir, Heavy-goods-vehicle drivers have long used the single flash to indicate that they are giving way to another vehicle (letter from the Dean of Chester, May 22), or that the tail of a passing long vehicle is clear ahead.

The driver who is flashed at must still make and be responsible for the consequences of his own decision on how to react in accordance with the Highway Code. Nevertheless it is a useful signalling system.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, K. PETER, Traffic Commissioner, 1976-86, Westgate Cottage, High Street, Thornham, Hunstanton PE36 6LX. May 22.

From Mr Anthony Orr

Sir, The flashing of headlights can cause even more damaging confusion when differing national customs clash.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY ORR, La Ferme St Martin, Chemin du Grand Royal 1, 1390 Bossut-Gottechain, Belgium. May 22.

From Mr Aiden R. Hargreaves-Smith Sir, Your former Warden is being modest in suggesting in his letter that he is "without illumination".

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE May 26: The Emperor and The Empress of Japan today commended State Visits in London to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince of Wales welcomed Their Majesties on behalf of the Queen at the Grosvenor House Hotel. The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, drove to Horse Guards and were met by the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, drove in a Carriage Procession to Buckingham Palace with a Sovereign's Escort of the Household Cavalry. Gun Salutes were fired in Green Park by the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery, and at the Tower of London by the Honourable Artillery Company. Guards of Honour were provided at Horse Guards by the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards and at Buckingham Palace by the Queen's Guard (1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment, West Riding). The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, drove to Westminster Abbey where His Majesty laid a Wreath at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior. Afterwards The Emperor and The Empress of Japan received an Address and Welcome by the Lord Mayor and Councillors of the City of Westminster at St James's Palace. Their Majesties subsequently visited Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother at Clarence House. The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening gave a State Banquet in honour of The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, at which Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York, The Prince Edward, The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, Prince Michael of Kent, Princess Alexandra, The Hon Lady Ogilvy and The Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were present. The following had the honour of being invited: His Majesty The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York, The Prince Edward, The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, Prince Michael of Kent, Princess Alexandra, The Hon Lady Ogilvy and The Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were present. The following had the honour of being invited: His Majesty The Emperor and The Empress of Japan, The Prince of Wales, The Duke of York, The Prince Edward, The Princess Royal and Captain Timothy Laurence RN, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, The Duke of Kent, Prince Michael of Kent, Princess Alexandra, The Hon Lady Ogilvy and The Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy were present.



Members of the Thackeray Society braving the rain to pay tribute yesterday at the novelist's refurbished grave

Thackeray rests in peace under new marble

THE Thackeray Society celebrated its novelist at Kensal Green Cemetery in north west London yesterday. At a ceremony which William Makepeace Thackeray would have drawn caterpillar-pouring rain around the grave of the hero they called WMT. They have paid for its refurbishment and the restoration of his portrait at the Reform Club. Their chairman, Russell Burlingham, said, "WMT's shade will be gazing down from some blissful Parnassian height with benevolence and pleasure. Also with unabated curiosity, as a social botanist, at this fine scene spread before him."

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron, will attend the 50th anniversary dinner of the Disabled Drivers Association at the Ruffe Posthouse, Coram Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1, at 6.30. The Princess Royal will attend the Suffolk Agricultural Show, Ipswich, at 10.20; and, as president, riding for the Disabled Association, will open a new complex at the Royal Riding for the Disabled Trust, Grass Garden Centre, High Road, Chigwell, Essex, at 3.10. Later, as patron, Association of Combined Youth Clubs, she will visit Greenwith Youth Aid, Herongate Centre, Thamesmead West, London SE28, at 6.30; will open the Central Eltham Youth Project, Eltham High Street, London SE8, at 7.55 and will visit St John's Church Hall, at 8.45. Prince's Alexandra will launch HMS Kent at Yarrow Shipbuilders, Scotscum, Glasgow, at 11.20.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Cornelius Vanderbilt, financier, Stapleton, New York, 1794; Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights, Homer, New York, 1828; Julia Howe, feminist, writer and reformer, New York, 1819; Wild Bill Hickock, US Marshal, Troy, Grove, Illinois, 1837; Arnold Bennett, novelist, Hanley, Staffordshire, 1867; Georges Rouault, Expressionist painter, Paris, 1871; Isadora Duncan, dancer, San Francisco, 1877; Frank Woolley, English and Kent cricketer, 1867; Dashiell Hammett, detective story writer, 1894; Sir John Cockcroft, physicist, Nobel laureate 1951, Todmorden, Yorkshire, 1897; Hubert Humphrey, American Vice-President 1965-69, Wallace, South Dakota, 1911. DEATHS: Thomas Minter, Protestant reformer, coventry, Mulhausen, Germany, 1525; John Calvin, Protestant reformer, Geneva, 1564; Niccolò Paganini, composer and violin virtuoso, Nice, 1840; Robert Koch, bacteriologist, Nobel laureate 1905, Baden-Baden, 1910; Sir Joseph Swan, chemist and physi-

Appointment

Lord Hussey of North Bradley to be President of the Iris Fund for Prevention of Blindness.

Mr R.W. (Bob) Powell

A memorial service for the life and death of Bob Powell, Headmaster of Sherborne School from 1950 to 1970, will be held in the School Chapel on Sunday, June 21 at 3.00pm.

Professor Ziad Beydoun

A celebration of the life of Ziad Beydoun, Professor of Geology at the American University of Beirut, will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 3.00pm in St Peter's College, Oxford. Friends and colleagues are welcome, and are asked to notify the Master's Secretary, tel 01865 278911, of their intention to be present.

Church news

The Rev William Maloney, formerly Rector, Cobes St John (Auburn, USA) to be Priest-in-Charge, Beckermere w Posenby (Curtis).

Memorial service

Captain C.B.H. Wake-Walker, RN, Lord Belstead, Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, attended a memorial service for Captain Christopher Wake-Walker, RN, held yesterday at St Mary's, East Bergholt.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.M. Clayton and Miss H.J. Wandle. The engagement is announced between the eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. Clayton, of Melksham, Wiltshire, and Harriet, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.W. Wandle, of Partridge House, Barham, Kent.

Luncheons

Royal Overseas House. The High Commissioner of New Zealand and Mrs Grant were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by Sir Geoffrey Ellison, Chairman of the Royal Overseas League, and members of the central council, yesterday at Overseas House, St James's.

Marriage

Mr J.W. Burton and Miss J.C. Bucknall. The marriage took place on May 23, at the Parish Church of Wotton-at-Stone, between Mr James Burton, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Burton, of Tewin, Hertfordshire, and Miss Jane Bucknall, daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek Bucknall, of Tewin, Hertfordshire.

Birthdays today

Dr Eric Anderson, Rector, Lincoln College, Oxford, 62; Mrs Irene Anderson, Headmistress, Rickmansworth Masonic School, 56; the Right Rev Simon Barrington-Ward, former Bishop of Coventry, 68; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Benjamin Bathurst, 62; Miss Cilla Black, singer and broadcaster, 55; Viscount Boyle, 33; Miss Bryony Brind, ballerina, 38; Earl Cairns, 59; Mr Pat Cash, tennis player, 33; Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, 67; Mr Lewis Collins, actor, 52; Lord Eroll of Hale, 84; Lord Freeman, 56; Mr Paul Gascogne, footballer, 31; Mr Duncanson, 30; Mr Goodwin, swimmer, 41; Miss Patricia Gould, former motor-racing champion, 74; Mr Norman Griggs, a vice-president, Building Societies Association, 62; Lord Holme of Cheltenham, 62; Dr Henry Kissinger, KCMG, former American Secretary of State, 75; Mr Christopher Lee, actor, 76; the Duke of Leinster, 84; Sir John Moberly, diplomat, 73; Miss Thea Musgrave, composer, 70; Mr Patrick O'Reilly, chairman, Lloyd's Register, 64; Mr Gerald Ranson, chief executive, Heron International, 58; Miss Florence Sharples, former executive director, YWCA 67; Mr Sam Smead, former chairman, BOAC, 84; Mr M.G.T. Webster, former chairman, DRG, 78.

Royal Society of St George

The following have been elected officers of the City of London branch of the Royal Society of St George. Chairman, His Honour Michael Chittenden; Vice-Chairman, Mr Alan Vicar Kinsey.

University news

Cambridge Queens' College. Elections to honorary fellowships; Abba Eban, who came up to Queens' in 1934, He achieved firsts in classics and Oriental languages, served in the British Army in the Second World War and was deputy Prime Minister of Israel 1963-66. Dr Michael Finkle, who came up to Queens' in 1925 and obtained a first in the most serious tripos followed by a PhD in Astrophysics. He has served on four space shuttle missions and last year spent four months on the Mir space station.

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THE TIMES OBITUARIES. A vertical column of text on the far right edge of the page, containing obituary notices and contact information for The Times newspaper.

OBITUARIES

CECIL GRAYSON

Professor Cecil Grayson, CBE, former Serena Professor of Italian at Oxford, died on April 29 aged 78. He was born on February 5, 1920.



Cecil Grayson: editor of early Italian Renaissance texts

ONE of Cecil Grayson's consuming academic pursuits was the editing of rare and unknown texts from the Italian Renaissance. What turned out to be his final researches had recently led to his publication of some new material to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Piero della Francesca's death. In all he spent 40 years as a teacher in Oxford (including an unbroken 31-year stint on the board of the Faculty of Modern Languages), 29 of them as Serena Professor. Later he was also senior fellow and dean of degrees at Magdalen College. His pupils at one time filled some 45 per cent of all Italian teaching posts in British universities, and a good proportion of Commonwealth and American university teachers of Italian count him as their mentor. He was just as well-known in Italy and America. Educated at Batley Grammar School and St Edmund Hall, Oxford, Cecil Grayson took a first in Modern Languages in 1947, his academic work having been interrupted by war service in India, where, along with a lasting affection for that country, he acquired Urdu. In 1948 he began lecturing at Oxford, and ten years later he was elected to the Serena Chair of Italian, and to his fellowship at Magdalen. When he was elected president of the Modern Humanities Research Association in 1987, he gave his presidential address on the advantages and disadvantages of a literary life: the allusion to Leon Battista Alberti's De commodis litterarum atque incommodis was obvious. This had been the first of Alberti's writings on which he worked. With its warning against expecting too many material rewards from the academic life, it was a splendidly cautionary introduction, but it also offered assurance about the serenity which knowledge and intellectual fulfilment would bring him: "Yet if you devote your labour most diligently to all the advice I've given you, young man, you will discover that letters are glamorous, most useful for attaining honour and glory and appropriate for obtaining the fruit of posterity and immortality." That treatise not only underpinned Alberti's life but gave Grayson some moral and academic guidelines for his brilliant career. In 1949 he produced, with the late Professor Dionisotti, his

lifelong friend and collaborator, an edition with commentary of Early Italian Texts. After the De commodis, it was Alberti's unpublished writings which firmly established his scholarly reputation, providing him with his first major edition and a breakthrough into the Italian academic hierarchy, where he successfully promoted British Italian scholarship, notably by his active participation in all aspects of Italian academic life. Thereafter he discovered and edited Vincenzo Colli's Il Calmete, which was hardly known to scholarship before Grayson showed that it contained the first pages of modern literary criticism. After this, he embarked on the massive task of editing what was then the national edition of the works of Alberti (Opere volgari), published between 1960 and 1973 by Laterza in the largest and most authoritative collection of Italian classics (to which no British scholar had ever previously contributed). At the same time he began editing Alberti's vernacular grammar, the first of its kind in Italy. Grayson's essays on Dante's language and style, particularly in his Cinque saggi su Dante, and on the querelle de la langue in the 15th century now have the status of minor classics. For a quarter of a century he was president and secretary of the Oxford Dante Society, and he edited many of their essays for Oxford University Press, including The World of Dante in 1980. He was also instrumental in popularising in Anglo-

phone countries the fine historical biographies of Roberto Ridolfi, three of which - Savonarola, Machiavelli and Guicciardini - he translated for the Clarendon Press. He was a member of Italy's most celebrated academies, the Lincei, the Crusca, Arcadia, the Istituto Veneto, and Bologna's Commissione and Accademia delle Scienze. In 1974 he won the international Galileo Prize, and in 1976 the British Academy's Serena gold medal, three years before his election to the British Academy itself. His CBE in 1992 had been anticipated by Italy 17 years earlier with the award of the Commenda. Of all the accolades, special mention must be made of the honorary fellowship at St Edmund Hall in 1986 which gave him particular delight and, most recently, the conferment of honorary citizenship of Mantua: he was preparing to attend the ceremony when he was taken into hospital. In the United States, Cecil Grayson had fellowships or visiting professorships at Yale, Berkeley, UCLA and New York University, and was fellow in residence at Chicago's Newberry Library. Twice he undertook long stints as a visiting professor at Cape Town and Perth, and he was a frequent visitor to those shores. He and his wife Margaret, a Hispanist who also taught for a while at Oxford, were wonderful cultural ambassadors, and those who followed in their footsteps, even decades later, found goodwill abounding when they were mentioned. The Graysons' zest for life beyond the academic confines manifested itself in many ways. One of their less likely activities was to drive across America's immense uncluttered highways. These adventures began when, after a hard year's teaching at UCLA, they had the brilliant idea of looking up car delivery firms in the American Yellow Pages and offering their services as driver and navigator. This allowed them to relax, to indulge their love of travel and exploration, and Grayson's delight in driving: the capricious variety of locations - and the often exotic vehicles - made it all the more appealing. Margaret Grayson was a great source of strength to her husband, and they shared all their experiences with mutual pleasure and satisfaction. They enjoyed music and cinema, read voraciously, and were at home in urbane cosmopolitan society, but they also loved walking the lonely places of the world. Cecil Grayson is survived by his wife, son and three daughters.

CHRIS GRIFFIN-BEALE

Chris Griffin-Beale, Head of Press at Channel 4, died on May 24 aged 50 of a suspected heart attack. He was born on October 7, 1947.



Griffin-Beale: idiosyncratic, droll and irreverent

CHRIS GRIFFIN-BEALE had the title at Channel 4 of head of press and deputy head of corporate affairs. He was a very good head of press and deputy head of corporate affairs, but in reality he was very much more than that. As chairman, chief executives and department heads wandered off from the channel over the years he remained, one of only a handful of staff who had been at the channel from the beginning. As such, he was a large part of its memory and a considerable part of its soul. Griffin-Beale adored the channel, and could fairly be said to have been adored in turn by those he worked with there. He could have earned a lot more money in the modern world of spin-doctors, had he approved of such a phenomenon, but he stayed where he was because he believed in Channel 4's idiosyncratic purpose. He was idiosyncratic, droll and irreverent himself. When his then boss Michael Grade was searching around for a title to a lecture he had to give, just before leaving Channel 4 to join First Leisure, Griffin-Beale suggested: The Place of the Bingo Industry in Modern Society. And he once suggested of a television executive that he had obviously suffered "a charisma by-pass". Grade, one of the three chief executives that Griffin-Beale worked for at Channel 4, especially valued his integrity in dealing with a sometimes hostile press. It made him the most respected media corporate press chief. It is certainly true that journalists liked working with him, because he was a former journalist himself and understood the limitations of daily journalism. He never tried to mislead. More than one new media journalist, faced with the task of writing a feature on Channel 4 a few days into the job, had cause to be grateful to Griffin-Beale. No sooner was contact made than lunch had

been arranged in a Charlotte Street restaurant. The journalist was plied with food and wine and everything he needed to know about Channel 4, both formal and informal; a properly rounded feature was the result. Even before he went to university to study English and Russian at Sussex, Griffin-Beale was interested in broadcasting and had worked as a cutting-room assistant for BBC Enterprises. At Sussex he was editor of the student television programme, In Camera, and a contributor to student newspapers. His career before joining the new channel 17 years ago included working as a BBC researcher on further education programmes, and devising and writing a film on Lenin's Russia based on newsreels. He also did a good deal of freelance journalism, often on education, writing for publications which ranged from The Times Educational Supplement and Education Guardian, to The Times and Sunday Times. The Observer, and the Financial Times. When he applied for the job that was to form the centrepiece of his working life Griffin-Beale was working as deputy editor of Broadcast, the industry trade magazine. In the press release announcing his appointment as the new channel's first press officer Griffin-Beale explained that he could not resist the chance to work with the team launching Channel 4 "which is the most important and hopeful innovation in British TV for 20 years". Despite the inevitable brickbats, he never changed his mind. He continued to take an interest in education, and became a parent governor when his eldest daughter Sophie joined Southfields School in South-West London in 1992. Griffin-Beale preferred thin cigars and good food to exercise, but he was forever charging around in the interests of the channel. He appears to have suffered a heart attack at home on Saturday. He had high blood pressure but no history of heart problems. Chris Griffin-Beale is survived by his wife Lucy and three daughters.

BLUE LU BARKER

Blue Lu Barker, blues and jazz singer, died in New Orleans on May 7, aged 84. She was born there on November 13, 1913.

number. Don't You Feel My Legs, as told by her husband, the late guitarist Danny Barker, has become one of the great set-pieces in jazz literature. As she and Danny sang their song, every chorus girl, bit-part actor and stage carpenter enthusiastically joined in the refrain, swaying to the beat, and they were convinced the

job was in the bag, only to find that Bill "Bojangles" Robinson (who was conducting the audition) took offence at the double entendres of the lyrics and refused to employ her. The benefit for Danny was that he won a nine-year stint in Cab Calloway's orchestra, but from 1937 until 1945, Blue Lu's own career was largely

sidelined, and she returned to being a housewife apart from a series of exceptional small group recordings made for Decca in 1938 and 1939. These discs feature her characteristically risqué singing and define a genre that she made uniquely her own. New Orleans, despite its reputation as the cradle of jazz,

produced very few blues singers of the first rank. Blue Lu Barker (born Louisa Dupont) might never have become one of the successful few, since she grew up intending to be a dancer. She won numerous contests as a child, largely innocent of the sexual metaphor of the popular steps of the day such as the Applejack. When she blossomed into an attractive teenager, her parents forbade her to dance, and she took up singing. In due course, she became the teenage bride of Danny Barker, who was already a suave and sophisticated musician but was equally famous locally for his talents as a raconteur and a snappy dresser (he won an audition to play in trumpeter Lee Collins's band on account of a particularly spectacular pair of shoes). When Danny travelled to New York to work with many of the leading bandleaders of the day, from Jelly Roll Morton to Benny Carter and Lucky Millinder, Louisa Barker followed him, making the long train journey with pioneer clarinetist Lorenzo Tio, who was intrigued by the paper parcel she clutched close to her. When she arrived in New York, the 16-year-old revealed that it was her favourite doll. She was launched into the heady life of show people, since the Barkers shared an apartment with Henry "Red" Allen and his wife, who forbade her to hang out her flannelite undergarments as unbecoming her status. The damp clothes were sent back to New Orleans and replaced with silk. In due course, Louisa began to sing around



Blue Lu Barker: famous for her salty songs

vehicle for her innocent, girlish voice, and showed her effortless transition to the jumping rhythms of R'n'B. She also scored a success with Here's a Little Girl, a disc that contained a lyric about a patent medicine that was plugged heavily in radio advertisements.

In the 1960s the Barkers returned to New Orleans where Danny became assistant curator of the Jazz Museum. Blue Lu revived her career, although by this stage her voice had dropped and she delivered raunchy traditional jazz standards in a gruff low register, far removed from her original girlish sound. Her discs with Alvin Acomb's band and for Al Rose's "Journeys into Jazz" package receive an energetic stage presence, and despite her by then considerable size, Blue Lu loved to dance the shimmy as she sang. By the 1980s she had fallen victim to a series of nagging illnesses, and she spent most of her last 15 years confined to a wheelchair, yet she continued to get out and about, particularly after her husband's death in 1994, and she was honoured by the City of New Orleans as its leading surviving blues singer from the early days. She had recently finished assisting in the editing of a final volume of her husband's memoirs, Buddy Bolden and The Last Days of Storyville (to be published by Cassell shortly), but she fell seriously ill in February. She is survived by her daughter, the storyteller and actress Sylvia Barker.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE: Corporate Hospitality, Royal Ascot, Wimbledon, etc.

FLATSHARE: Various flatshare listings with contact numbers.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: Jetline, Flightseekers, Flightwise.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sargent Cancer Care for Children, The RAF Rises to the Challenge.

LEGAL NOTICES: Various legal notices and court proceedings.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL: Delta Worldwider, Jetworld, etc.

FLATSHARE: More flatshare listings.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY: More flight listings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: More announcements.

LEGAL NOTICES: More legal notices.

THE KING AND THE QUEEN AT THE DERBY: News about the royal family's interest in horse racing.

ON THIS DAY May 27, 1909: Historical events and anniversaries.

COURT & SOCIAL: News about court cases and social events.

NEWS

A day of protest and reconciliation

Emperor Akihito of Japan spoke of his sorrow and pain at the scars left by the Second World War, after witnessing a protest by hundreds of former prisoners-of-war at the start of his four-day state visit to Britain.

Addressing a state banquet the Emperor said that he could never forget the many kinds of suffering so many people had undergone because of the war. But he expressed his gratitude to those who looked to the future.

Family arrested for £600,000 'fraud'

Six members of a family suspected of masterminding false social security claims totalling £600,000 and a £1.2 million mortgage fraud have been arrested. They were bailed to return to Stoke Newington police station after four north London homes were raided.

Power station danger

Power stations are a larger source of air pollution than was previously thought, say government advisors.

Death case closed

The case against three young men who were cleared over the deaths of twin sisters seven years ago will not be reopened.

Performance pay

The growing crisis in teacher recruitment can be solved only by rewarding those who raise standards with salaries which reflect their performance, a head teachers' leader said.

Trawler suspicion

The families of four Cornish fishermen who perished in the Bay of Biscay have commissioned a private investigation into the sinking amid suggestions that the trawler may have been rammed.

Chaplain arrested

The chaplain at a leading boys public school was arrested in Germany and charged with importing child pornography into the country.

Australia is sorry

Australia issued an apology to its indigenous people in a national Sorry Day to acknowledge the mistreatment of Aborigines over two centuries.

Checks on MPs

The Labour leadership backed stringent new powers to weed out unsuitable parliamentary candidates and MPs with poor disciplinary records.

World Cup arrests

Police in five European countries arrested more than 80 suspected Islamic militants in a massive operation to head off possible terrorist activity during the World Cup in France.

Hospital waiting

Toni Blair admitted that Government's policies on hospital waiting lists and class sizes needed to "get back on track".

Jerusalem fighting

Members of the Palestinian parliament fought club-wielding Israeli police with their bare fists in Jerusalem's Old City during violent protests over shacks erected by Jewish militants.

Countryside failure

Rural job creation schemes are destroying the beauty and tranquillity of the countryside without providing more employment for local people, says the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Portillo warning

Michael Portillo, the former Defence Secretary, is telling America that monetary union and the common foreign policy of a federal Europe will fracture the transatlantic alliance.

Please can we have our barn back?

An historic English tithe barn bought by the newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst and shipped to America 70 years ago has been found in boxes in a Californian warehouse. Villagers from Bradenstoke, Wiltshire, are now asking for help from the National Lottery to repatriate the medieval building and re-erect it.



Little tern chicks shelter under plastic piping provided for them by the RSPB at Great Yarmouth to protect them from marauding kestrels

BUSINESS

Indonesia: The Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee is likely to mount an investigation into British business in the wake of the fall of President Suharto and the shake-out of contracts negotiated under his rule.

SPORT

Football: Paul Ince is unlikely to start against Morocco in Casablanca today because of an ankle injury. His place will probably be taken by Paul Gascoigne.

ARTS

Dear Madam: As Dame Ninette de Valois prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday, her friends and colleagues give Debra Crane their impressions.

PREVIEW

Golden thread: The Duchess of York looks good and has paid off her debts. Grace Bradberry wonders if it's not time we stopped picking on her.



TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

FILM Geoff Brown on John Boorman's hit at Cannes, The General

BOOKS Can religious faith and science co-exist, asks Roger Scruton

Lord Wakeham on payments to criminals; global warming; Koranic punishments; teenage parties; holes in one; headlight flashing; their case at Harrow.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,802

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-27 indicating starting positions for words.

- ACROSS
1 If I'm done at some stage, to furnish new flats (5-8).
2 European has to work very hard to finish early (4).
3 Temperate stretch of coast, about fifty miles (5).
4 A piece of cake - take it thus to avoid stress (4).
5 Govt. Department's power covers Eastern cross-country route (5,3).
6 Thrill given to 15, for a start (4).
7 Retained half of original payment by cheque (4).
8 One getting well oiled before joining TT set (10).
9 Son's quick finding fault (6).
10 Turn up twice? Arc you serious? (4,4).

Word search puzzle titled 'RACER SPHERICAL' with a grid of letters and a list of words to find.

Table with weather conditions for various regions: London, SE, Cent S, E, SW, etc.

Table with world city weather for 153 destinations: London, Paris, New York, etc.

Table with car reports by fax for various countries: France, Germany, etc.

Table with hours of business for various cities: London, Edinburgh, etc.

FORECAST

General: southern England will start wet, the rain lingering in the south east, it will brighten elsewhere. Wales and central and northern England will have sunny spells and showers.

Table with forecast data for various cities: Aberdeen, Glasgow, London, etc.

Table with airway information for various routes: London to Paris, etc.

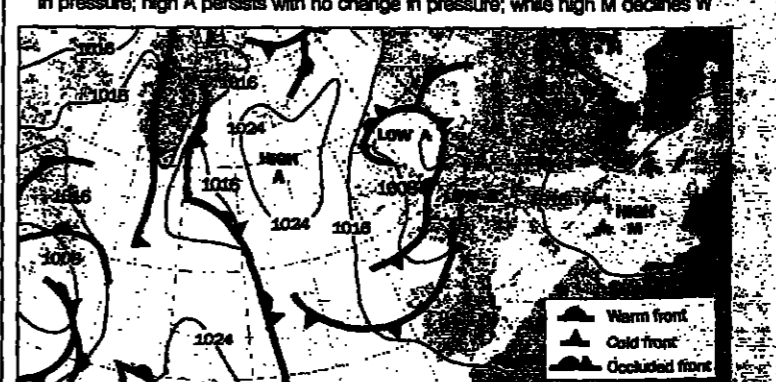
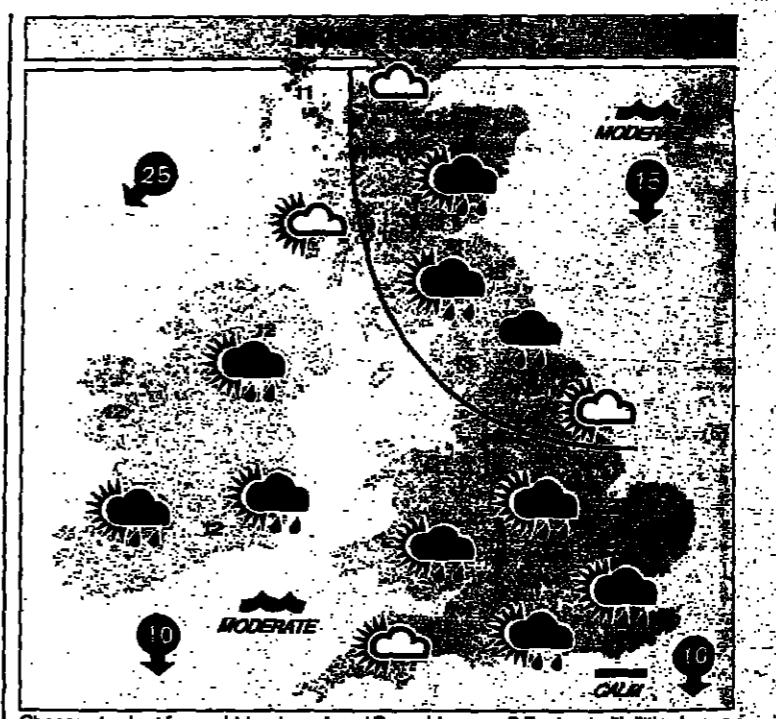


Table with today's weather for various cities: London, Manchester, etc.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING logo and text.

Perfect Day logo and text.

SCOOT 0800 192192 logo and text.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY', 'MPs li...', 'North fears BP', and 'Lloyd's ac of 'propag against n'.

Back last summer the future seemed so different. The nation had just turned its back on Vanity Fair and voted in new Labour. Bambi was our favourite film. Harsh, unfeeling short-termist individualism had given way to co-operation, compassion, the community and other nice things starting with C.

It pays to cash in Nationwide



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

mutuality during the campaign. This time, members still saddled with temptation will also be asked more simply to vote for conversion to a plc. Nationwide members will choose whether to vote themselves perhaps £2,000 cash each. As temptations go, this is one to consider giving in to.

rowers want a cheaper mortgage for decades, if the society can convince them, they will get it. Depositors rightly have shorter horizons. They will take some persuading that a putative, marginally better future rate justifies giving up a windfall.

Choosing Chester over Springer

Achtung, Achtung. Is there anyone in Blighty who can save the dear old Mirror Group from the clutches of Axel Springer, the German publishing giant whose Bild magazine makes The Mirror look like The Wall Street Journal?

laws that Monty has failed to persuade Chris Smith to reform to his satisfaction. Axel Springer can afford to buy Mirror, even though its two largest shareholders will not allow it to issue any shares for fear of diluting their stakes. It even had a look at bidding for United News & Media, which would have cost it a good £5 billion.

that this will deliver more value than a Springer bid. Monty thought that the Midland Independent Newspapers deal would bring a sea change in market perception of his company. It didn't. Can he be sure the City will back him if he rejects hard cash from Frankfurt in favour of vague synergies from Chester.

Oliver in a twist

Being ousted as chairman of Liberty has clearly taught Denis Cassidy a thing or two. Yesterday he performed a clever procedural sidestep to at least delay — and hopefully avoid an embarrassing bloody nose which promised to be delivered by the shareholders of Oliver Group, which he also chairs. Under company law, it seems, proxy votes can be placed in cold storage for 48 hours before they go off.

another chairmanship. Investors have to ask why Oliver needs the £57 million it is raising so soon after selling a property portfolio, why it is taking such a circuitous route to raise the money, which will see many small investors see their stakes heavily diluted, and why the senior executives all receive bonus payments when the group is making losses.

Into The Valley

THE 24 per cent leap in Charlton Athletic's share price after its promotion to the FA Carling Premiership, means the much loved, but sporadically followed, AIM stock is above its issue price for the first time. However, those wanting to climb aboard the Charlton bandwagon will find the train has left The Valley. A better investment looks like hat-trick hero Clive Mendonca, who was an 11/2 bet to score the first goal in Monday's eight-goal thriller.

Ionica's shares hit by £850m gap in funding

By CHRIS AYRES

IONICA, the wireless telecom provider that last year suffered one of the most disastrous flotations in the City's recent history, is facing a huge funding shortage of about £850 million, it emerged yesterday.

which it needed to carry out its business plan. Because of delays in rolling out its national network, that shortage is now estimated to be nearer £930 million. This leaves the company with a total funding gap of £850 million.

founded by Nigel Playford, said that it would be able to rival British Telecom within a few years because its wireless network required only a fraction of the investment of a traditional network. The company already offers huge discounts to the few people able to get its service, and also provides other services such as low-cost dual phone lines.

in Ionica, whose shares hit a high of 42p shortly after its flotation. Much of their anger has been directed at SBC Warburg, which advised Ionica at flotation, and senior sources in the investment bank admit to feeling embarrassment over the company's disastrous performance.

UB to buy Delacre for \$125m

By OUR CITY STAFF

UNITED BISCUITS is to buy the Biscuits Delacre business from Campbell Soup for \$125 million (£76.7 million). Delacre makes biscuits in France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, exporting to more than 50 countries around the world.

ABN Amro joins bidding for Generale Bank

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

ABN AMRO, the Dutch bank, yesterday launched a surprise counterbid for Generale Bank of Belgium in an offer that values the group at about £7.5 billion.

Generale stock, the equivalent of BF26,870 per share. Fortis is offering seven of its shares for three Generale shares, equivalent to BF25,665 per share. Fortis has called an extraordinary meeting for June 5, when investors will be asked to approve the issue of new shares to finance the deal.

Kunick is tiring of Sam loss

By FRASER NELSON

SMILIN' SAM'S, the restaurant chain jointly run by Kunick and Allied Domecq, is in danger of being wound up unless it breaks into profit within the next year.



Jeremy Pope, Eldridge Pope chief executive, left, with John Harper, finance director

Half-time cheer for Eldridge

By OUR CITY STAFF

ELDRIDGE POPE, the Dorset pub retailer, raised pre-tax profits from £15 million to £18 million in the six months to March 31 on sales up from £30.9 million to £31.8 million. Earnings rose from 5.6p to 6.2p, out of which the dividend rises from 2.12p to 2.30p.

BTP pays £53.6m for Hexachimie

By ADAM JONES

BTP, the speciality chemicals group whose shares have surged recently after takeover speculation and publicity surrounding the new Viagra impotence pill, is paying £53.6 million to expand in the drug and agrochemical markets.

Hexachimie makes ingredients for agrochemicals and drugs such as anti-inflammatories and anti-depressants. It has two sites between Bordeaux and Toulouse and made pre-tax profits of £5.3 million on sales of £26.2 million in 1997. Net assets were £28.1 million at the end of the year.

would help BTP to cash in on the increasing tendency of pharmaceutical multinationals to outsource drug manufacture. BTP supplies an ingredient in the Viagra pill made by Pfizer, the pharmaceuticals group. Last week, it emerged that six men using Viagra in America had died. American regulators are investigating to see whether

the patients had heart disease. They said that the drug was still considered safe. Hexachimie brings contracts with Bristol-Myers Squibb lasting about three to five years. Mr Greatbatch said it was more likely that other drug companies would use the French firm now that it was not owned by a competitor.

THYSSEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT
United Kingdom shareholders are advised that copies of the Interim Report of the Thyssen Group on the first six months of the fiscal year 1997/98 (from October 1, 1997 to March 31, 1998) are now available from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, Attn. Corporate Action Department - Paying Agency, Swiss Bank House, 1 High Timber Street, London EC4V 3SB.

McLeod Russel aided by Dutch acquisition

By ADAM JONES

AN IMPORTANT purchase in The Netherlands helped McLeod Russel, the air filter, coatings and surface coatings group, to increase interim profits by 7.2 per cent. In the six months to March 31, the group recorded profits before tax of £4.5 million, on sales of £59.7 million, which were up from £55.9 million.

coatings company that was bought for £57 million at the end of 1997. Ian Hazlehurst, chief executive, said further acquisitions were more likely to be in McLeod's clean-air division. In March, it bought Filterworks, an American distributor of filters. Earnings per share were 5.54p, up from 5.08p, and an interim dividend of 3.1p (3p) will be paid on July 31.



Independent Newspapers

Meeting the challenge of the new millennium

OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

- Ireland
• Ireland's largest newspaper publishing group.
• Operating profits are up 10%.
• Strong circulation in all national titles.
• Launched full colour Weekend magazine published in Saturday's Irish Independent.
• Subscriber growth increased by 12% in second largest cable and MDS television company (Irish Multichannel - 50% owned).

Table with 3 columns: 1997, 1996, Change. Rows include Turnover, Operating Profit, Profit before Taxation, Earnings per Share, Dividends per Share, Shareholders' Funds.

INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS, PLC
Full financial statements for the year ended 26 December 1997 will be delivered to the Registrar of the Companies and carry an unqualified Audit Report. Copies of the Report may be obtained from the Secretary, Independent Newspapers, PLC, 1-2 Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Advertisement for Royal Ascot featuring a horse and rider. Text includes 'Head and shoulders above the rest', 'Come and enjoy the finest class, superb views, first class service and a choice of perfect stables', and contact information for Royal Ascot at 01544 878555.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, likely a continuation of the newspaper's masthead or a sidebar advertisement.

كندا من الأصل

Shares close off day's high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table listing stocks in the Alcoholic Beverages sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

BANKS

Table listing stocks in the Banks sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table listing stocks in the Breweries, Pubs & Rest sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table listing stocks in the Building Materials sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

CHEMICALS

Table listing stocks in the Chemicals sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

CONSTRUCTION

Table listing stocks in the Construction sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

DISTRIBUTORS

Table listing stocks in the Distributors sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

1998 High Low % CHG % P/E

Table listing various stocks with columns for High, Low, % change, and P/E ratio.

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ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table listing stocks in the Engineering Vehicles sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table listing stocks in the Food Manufacturers sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

HEALTHCARE

Table listing stocks in the Healthcare sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT

Table listing stocks in the Household Goods & Text sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

INSURANCE

Table listing stocks in the Insurance sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing stocks in the Investment Trusts sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing stocks in the Leisure & Hotels sector with columns for High, Low, and % change.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for High, Low, and % change.

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table listing short-term interest rates with columns for rate and % change.

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table listing long-term interest rates with columns for rate and % change.

UNDATED

Table listing undated interest rates with columns for rate and % change.

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of

Table listing index-linked interest rates with columns for rate and % change.

1998 High Low % CHG % P/E

Table listing various stocks with columns for High, Low, % change, and P/E ratio.

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FILM
A tight corner for Richard Gere
FACING PAGE

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
Fresh take on Measure for Measure
PAGE 32



Centenary of a dancing legend

DAVID BINTLEY

Director of Birmingham Royal Ballet: "I do feel the de Valois legacy: I hope I am passing it on. That's why I continue to work with elements which seem to be unfashionable these days. We in Birmingham are still in the business of making dance about things; we are not just putting music on and dancing to it. There is more to being a dancer than being a musical gymnast. And Madam understood that."

"The last time I saw Madam was last year and she wasn't in the best of health; she was fairly tired. I sat with her and she was silent but it was wonderful to sit there and not feel that one had to say anything. I found that quite spiritually moving. I have always had a sense that she must have had a good deal of spiritual strength to cope with her position. It can't just have been self-belief and blood-mindedness that saw her through."



ON JUNE 6 British ballet celebrates the 100th birthday of Dame Ninette de Valois, one of the towering figures of 20th-century dance. As founder of the Royal Ballet, Birmingham Royal Ballet and the Royal Ballet School, de Valois established one of the world's greatest arts organisations. A former dancer with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, the Irish-born de Valois launched her company at Sadler's Wells Theatre in 1931. As teacher, choreographer and artistic director she turned her modest troupe into an internationally acclaimed company which came to embody the "English style". To mark her centenary, her friends and colleagues give DEBRA CRAINE their impressions of the lady they call Madam

LESLIE EDWARDS

Royal Ballet 1933-93: "I made my debut at the Vic Wells Ballet in 1933. One didn't know then that she was going to be a legend. It was very exciting. She did such a lot so rapidly; she whizzed through the classical ballets. She always had a clear idea of what she wanted, and her idea was to form a very great ballet company. She did it with one office, one secretary and one rehearsal room."

"What she accomplished was miraculous. We were so busy creating; we never stopped going on stage. Yet she had time for the theatre, and was always aware of everything that was going on. And she had great humour; the first time I ever saw her she was in peals of laughter. She was a great one for enjoying a joke."

ANTOINETTE SIBLEY

Royal Ballet 1956-79: "She was very intimidating, but I was never frightened of her. Lots of people are, but I think she rather likes naughty people, devious people, and she seemed to get on well with those of us who were cheeky or mischievous. I always adored her. She had an amazing sense of humour. She would be in a temper one minute and finish up laughing the next."

"She was like April - quixotic. She was chasing new things all the time. One got an awful lot of courage from her. You were pushed in at the deep end and you either sank or swam. But she gave you an enormous courage in life to take risks. Great people take risks, and she did so all the time. She didn't dwell on the bad things in life; she didn't have time for that. She had shocking migraines all the time and had polio as a child. She was not a big strong healthy person, and yet here she was starting companies."

PANELA MAY

Royal Ballet 1934-52: "I was 15 when I first met her in 1932. She would tear strips off you in class, but it was all forgotten when you saw her in the corridor half an hour later. As a dancer she was marvellous, tremendous humour and gaiety, sharp quick footwork. But she was also a wonderful choreographer. Rake's Progress was brilliant, Checkmate was madly before its time. There was nothing like that anywhere. She's all for going ahead; she doesn't live in yesterday. She doesn't want the company to stand still. Look at all the new music I used," she says. She is terribly keen that young new choreographers should be given a chance. "How many new choreographers have we got?" she will suddenly ask. "Who is being given a chance?" She thinks about it."

BERYL GREY

Royal Ballet 1941-57: "I saw her dance in Coppelia. She had big black eyes that transfixed me. She was a very beautiful woman, and she had a lot of Irish charm. She was a soubrette dancer, very precise, like her ballets, everything worked out to the last detail. But she was quite frightening as a teacher. She demanded terribly high standards and she was a strict disciplinarian. She could be quite terrifying one minute and absolutely sweet the next, with a tremendous heart below it all."

"I owe my career to her. Nobody believed in those days that an English person could dance. She put me on stage when I was 14; it was Swan Lake Act II in Oxford. You were told in the morning and did it that evening. She was after the best and she got the best out of us. She is one of the great women of this century; she achieved a miracle - two companies and a school - and it would not have happened without her. The tragedy is that she didn't have time to make more ballets. The ones she made were masterpieces."

girl'. She used to sit in that box closest to the Covent Garden stage for all the performances so you felt very closely observed and you could hear her discussing people. That used to scare us. You thought you had done something wrong. "She was always very chic. She took all her rehearsals in a little suit; she had pretty legs and you always saw her legs. We were also expected to look very smart. We wore suits and gloves and hats. But she kept herself removed from the company; I think she felt she needed to. It made it easier to dismiss people. I do remember people leaving suddenly following a conversation with Madam. She never lived in the past. She was only ever concerned with now and the future. Once yesterday happened, it was gone."

MADAM NUREYVA

Royal Ballet 1947-66: "In the 1960s when I was around the Royal Ballet was considered the greatest company in the world apart from the Kirov and the Bolshoi. Alas, it has problems at the moment; it has lost its way. But if Madam were there now, with her foresight, she would say: 'I don't care what the opera does, I'm going to get a theatre for the Royal Ballet,' and she would get one. She was the greatest lady; a fantastic director. She retired in 1963 far too early; if she had stayed on as director for another ten years the Royal Ballet would be in a better state today."

"But Madam was also a frustrated ballerina who lived through the success of Margot Fonteyn. She created Margot, and like no other artist in the world Margot had every first night of every season for 20 years. For the other ballerinas, like Moira Shearer and Beryl Grey, it was very difficult. And Madam lost ballerinas because of that. Later, the men in the company turned against her because of her favouritism towards Nureyev."

ANTHONY DOWELL

Director of the Royal Ballet: "The label 'English style' was created by the driving forces in the company. What's unusual about the Royal Ballet is that we really do serve the choreographers. They are the gods and the rulers. That is the great vision Madam started. She would be the first to be open to influences. When Rudolf arrived on the scene she let us all learn from him. She made these opportunities happen. The debt we owe her is just enormous. I'm not sure that she was that enamoured of me in my early days but as director I have had tremendous support from her. I treasure the letters I get from her; it's one of the reasons I keep going."



The woman who founded an empire: Ninette de Valois as Swanilda in a 1930s staging of Coppelia

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THE TIMES The Sinatra Collection TOKEN 2

CHANGING TIMES

Fresh faces behind the fringe

Beyond The Fringe it ain't perhaps, but it is still reassuring to see late-night revue maintaining a toe-hold in the West End. Since critics form one of the main targets in Bleeding Arts, an irreverent survey of all things cultural, I had better be careful what I say. Still, at a time when the skewed values of PR hype and Hello! magazine are creeping in everywhere, a few sharp kicks in the shin are always welcome.

The brisk one-hour show - which runs on Friday and Saturday in this small basement venue - certainly makes a change from the same old scatalogical stand-up acts. Director Michael Eriera will be adding topical material as the run proceeds, drawing on a pool of writers whose credits include Newsweek and the now-defunct Week Ending. Anthony Chalmers lands one of the first bull's eyes with a song inspired by modern biographers whose dubious motives are boiled down to the tabloid-sized question: "T.S. Eliot - did he get enough?" That is quickly followed by Noel Christopher's surreal tell-all interview with a tin of Campbell's soup - a garrulous Presbyterian by the name of Morag - who served as muse to Andy Warhol.

Bonnard's flesh fixation is another of the more unlikely sources of inspiration, and later Chalmers genially updates Peter Cook's Second World War "futile gesture" sketch, with Peter Mandelson being sent on a suicidal Dombuster mission to Greenwich. On the other hand it hardly seems worth devoting so much precious time to rubbishing Andrew Lloyd Webber - a figure who is surely beyond

GREAT BRITISH HOPES Rising stars in the arts firmament: NETIA DAVAN WETTON

Age: 29. Profession: Opera director and designer.



Enigmatic smile: She directed last night's Music For The Mona Lisa at the Cochrane Theatre, a "fusion of dance, music and design" inspired by the music which da Vinci might have used to entertain his most famous model. Tomorrow lunchtime you can see extracts from her Clonter Opera Farm production of Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel at the Unicorn Arts Theatre.

Creative economy: "I like staged concerts like Mona Lisa because you can take more risks than on a more expensive, full-scale opera. Having a very low budget for Hansel and Gretel forced me to be very inventive with the design." Both shows are part of the BOC Covent Garden Festival and follow on from her well-received productions for Scottish Opera and British Youth Opera. Critics have praised her "stylish" and "sensitive" direction.

Does she know her limitations? "Some shows involve so much work that there's no

time. The kids were from two rival schools, so there were a few fist-fights. But they really enjoyed singing with a 60-piece orchestra."

Missionary zeal: She runs regular school and community workshops "because opera mustn't be hijacked by posh people. Nobody should see it as a scary art form."

Area's opera directors always in conflict with conductors? "Some conductors keep their heads buried in the score, but I've been very lucky to work with Leonard Hancock and Wyn Davies, who always involve themselves very closely with what's happening on stage."

Musical youth: Her father, Hilary, conducts the Milton Keynes City and Wren orchestras. "I went to his concerts from a very early age and could read music before I could read English." She studied art, then read French and Spanish at Oxford.

You should never work with children, right? Wrong. In January, she directed more than 100 11-year-old Glaswegians in a Scottish Opera project aptly titled Pandemonium.

What are the chances of seeing her directing Aida at Earl's Court? Non-existent. "I'm only interested in the intimate. The epic just doesn't ring my bell."

DANIEL ROSENTHAL

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Why Gere wants China in his hand

Beijing has barred Richard Gere since his Tibet protest. His new movie won't help, says Martyn Palmer

Richard Gere hopes his new film *Red Corner* will upset a lot of people. More specifically, he will be delighted if it rattles the Chinese Government. For *Red Corner* is a thriller with a message, and that message, says the actor, is that the Chinese legal system is overly harsh and the more pressure that is brought to bear on that system the better.

Since the film has already been released in the United States (where it did moderately well), and is unlikely ever to be seen in China, it may not achieve that aim. But Gere, 46, a long-time Buddhist and champion of Tibetan causes, is pleased that Hollywood has in recent years focused on that part of the world, with films such as *Seven Years in Tibet* and Scorsese's *Kundun*.

"I think that what is interesting about these films is that they can have an effect on the present," Gere says. "When *The Killing Fields* was made the genocide in Cambodia was already over, or almost over."

"And although *Seven Years in Tibet* was set in the late 1940s, and *Kundun* was set in the Forties and through the Fifties, they still reveal the present situation of Tibetans being oppressed by an aggressive neighbour who has occupied them since 1949."

Red Corner, which is set in present-day China, revolves around the Kafkaesque nightmare of an American lawyer, Jack Moore (played by Gere), who is wrongly accused of murder. The film paints a bleak picture of a system where a party accused of a capital crime can be tried, convicted and shot within a week.

Gere himself was last invited to China, to a film festival, in 1993. Since then he has been refused an entry visa.

The actor, a friend of the Dalai Lama, has become a focus of Tibetan causes in Hollywood, and a tireless promoter of Buddhism in the United States. "I've been turned down for a visa maybe 20 times now. I can't go to China because for 15 years I have been speaking out about human rights abuses and specifically about Tibet."

Red Corner was filmed entirely in and around studios in Los Angeles. The director, Jon

that maybe can have an effect on the way things are, the way that people think."

Gere was born, the second of five children, into a middle-class family in Syracuse, in upstate New York. His father was an insurance salesman and he remains very close to his parents and siblings.

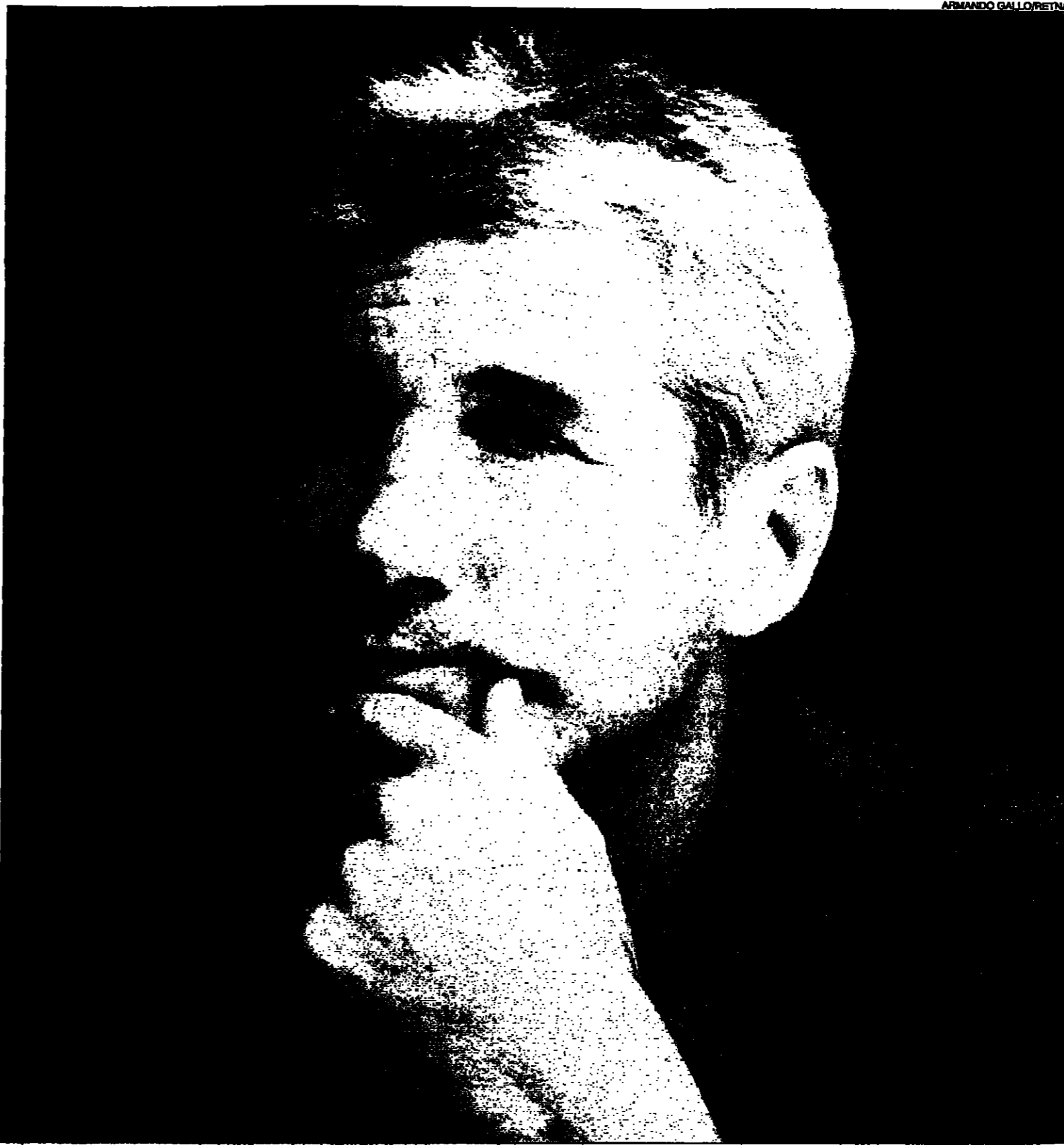
"We had a lot of love which was the main thing," he says of his childhood. "I have a wonderful family and I'm proud of them all. We were a serious, Methodist church-going family. We were musical, too. We all played several instruments and it was quite a shock to me when I discovered that everyone else didn't."

"I guess I was a normal, suburban kid. I rebelled a bit, all boys rebel, it's in their nature, but there were no big dramas."

Gere began acting at the University of Massachusetts, where he was studying philosophy. After spells with the Provincetown Playhouse and Seattle Repertory Theatre, he moved to New York and began to win attention on and off Broadway with productions such as the rock opera *Soon* and the New York production of the British farce *Habes Corpus*, and later the London and Broadway productions of *Grease*.

He crossed over to films in 1978 with *Days of Heaven*, followed by *Looking for Mr Goodbar* and *Yanks*. An *Officer and a Gentleman* established him as a star in 1982; in 1990 came *Pretty Woman* (in which he co-starred with Julia Roberts), the biggest grossing picture of that year. Yet both were films about which Gere had serious misgivings.

"There is an irony here," he says. "I really brew about making these decisions, about



Richard Gere's two biggest moneyspinners were *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Pretty Woman* — and he didn't want to make either of them

what movies I'm going to make. I really care about it. I care about what people get from these movies and I feel I have a huge responsibility in that way.

"And the two movies that I frankly didn't want to do, but I

had mortgage payments coming up and whatever, were *An Officer and a Gentleman* and *Pretty Woman*. So I figure I have no idea..."

These days he can, of course, pick and choose his projects without fear of miss-

ing a mortgage payment. Now single, since his divorce from the model Cindy Crawford, he combines his film work with his love of photography and his role as the founding chairman of Tibet House in New York. His recent film work has

been something of a hit-and-miss affair, with turkeys like *First Knight* and *The Jackal* sitting alongside more interesting outings such as *Sommerby* and *Intersection*.

One day, he hopes, he will be allowed to visit China

again. He stresses that he feels a deep affection for the Chinese people, it's just their Government he objects to. "I'd probably be put in jail if I went there right now," he says.

Red Corner is released in Britain on June 5

WILLIE NELSON has long been regarded as one of the outlaws of American music and, at 65, he is not ready to go straight. While he still tours with improbable energy, his reputation as a frontiersman of country music made him a natural for the Barbsican's *Inventing America* season. He sold out the one-off date last Friday with ease, and what followed was a highly individual, illustrated voyage around his colourful life and times.

The big country

Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the Nelson story is that fresh chapters are still being added. His position in the country pantheon may be set in stone, but he is no monolith of the genre. The creative spark is still there, and Nelson already has two 1990s albums to his name — *Just One Love* and *Spirit* — as

POP



evocative as any in his portfolio. As on his last visit, at the Albert Hall two years ago, his performance first addressed the songs that made his name, initially as a penurious Nashville writer and later a maverick frontman. But it was again plain that standards such as *Crazy*, *Funny How Time Slips Away* and *Night Life* have turned from inspiration to obligation. Such compositions remain unassailable on disc, but on stage Nelson rushes through them as if his pants

are on fire, often finishing a vocal line before the hapless band has started its chord changes.

But what a contrast when they returned for the second half. Nelson was clearly eager to share songs from his next album, *Teatro*, due in August, and suddenly yet another facet of this wily old pirate was revealed in the excellent, flamenco-imbued *I Never Cared For You*. From the *Spirit* set came the melancholy *She is Gone*, featuring sister Bobbie on piano, and the ride also included a new song written with Kris Kristofferson. By the end, anything was possible: even *Beer-Barrel Polka* was within his sights, and Hank Williams's *I Saw The Light* was played with revivalist glee. It was all enigmatic, incorrigible and inspiring.

PAUL SEXTON

Few string ensembles specialising in contemporary repertoire have caught the imagination in quite the way the Kronos Quartet has. Now 25 years old, the Quartet has commissioned an astonishing 400 new works; a piece in the early days was paid for with a bag of doughnuts, although nowadays the heavily hyped, high-tech trappings of a Kronos event tell a different story.

The Festival Hall's four-concert Kronos Festival began on Sunday night with a programme taken largely from the ensemble's recent disc, *Early Music*. If the title is a little baffling for a group dedicated to 20th-century music, the explanation lies in the reworking of music by medieval composers such as

Is it new or is it memory?

their liturgical context, however, the sacred pieces began to serve as mystic wallpaper, while at times it was not immediately obvious whether one was hearing 9th-century Greek modes. Ars Nova po-

lyphony or, indeed, time-warping Tibetan throat-singing. No doubt it was the intention to place them in a continuum, but it was with some relief that we passed, in the second half, to the more dynamic

music of Osvaldo Golijov. His *Dreams and Prayers of Isaac the Blind* is a substantial work of three movements with prelude and postlude, exploring the philosophy of the medieval kabbalist rabbi of Provence. For this the Kronos was joined by the clarinetist David Krakauer, whose dazzling virtuosity eclipsed even that of the quartet.

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Top Brit held back by injury



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ATHLETICS

Top Britons held back by injuries

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

INJURY forced Denise Lewis to withdraw from her first heptathlon of the year yesterday, which means that all three of Britain's most successful women track and field athletes are entering the new season uncertain about their fitness.

Lewis was to have competed in Goetzis, Austria, this weekend in a rematch between the gold and silver medal-winners from the world championships in Athens last year. Sabine Braun, the world champion from Germany, had been lined up to compete against Lewis but the Briton is out with ankle trouble.

At the same time, Ashia Hansen has had to call off her

draw from a representative match at Loughborough where she was entered for the sprint hurdles and long jump, because of lateral ligament damage to her left ankle. It was said to be a precautionary measure to give her the best chance of competing in Goetzis.

However, she said yesterday: "I am not feeling confident enough in the ankle to jump at the moment." In a year when Lewis has set herself twin targets of European championships and Commonwealth Games, she has been denied the chance of an early-season fillip.

Goetzis is a favourite venue for Lewis. Twice she has set a British record there. Jonathan Marks, her manager, offered assurance that "it is not going to be a season-threatening injury".

Hansen appears to be over the worst of her ailment. Though triple jumping is too risky at present, she will travel with her club, Shaftesbury Barnet, to Vilamoura to compete in the long jump and sprint relay.

"Ashia has been frustrated more than worried," Aston Moore, Hansen's coach, said. "We are about a month behind in work. We have been told it was deep bruising but there is nothing to worry about. She got the all-clear at the weekend that there is nothing terrible wrong."

However, Britain may have to do without Hansen at the European Cup in St Petersburg towards the end of next month. "What we need is a couple of competitions in mid-June," Moore said. "If everything goes well she will compete in the European Cup but I am keeping an open mind."

Shaftesbury Barnet had feared they would be unable to afford to take part in the European clubs' championship but, after reading in *The Times* of their financial difficulties, a former club member has come forward with £2,500 towards flights.

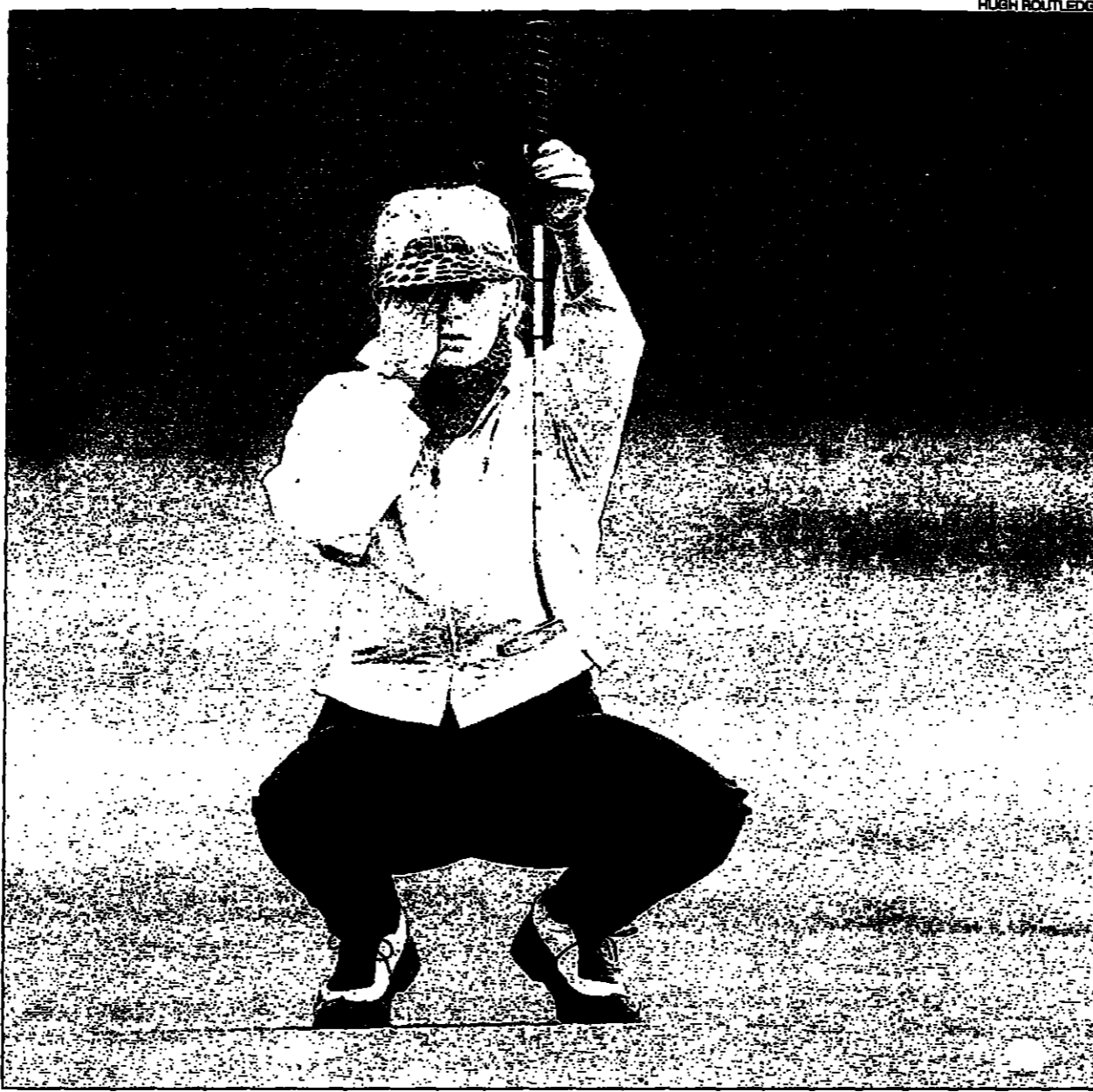


Lewis: missing rematch

first triple-jump competition of the outdoor season. A bruised heel has caused Hansen, who set an indoor world record in February, to stand down from the event in the European clubs' championships in Vilamoura, Portugal, this weekend.

The setbacks relating to Lewis and Hansen follow word from Kelly Holmes that she will not begin her racing season until July 24 at the earliest, only four weeks before the European championships. Holmes, the Commonwealth 1,500 metres champion, has had an operation to remove scar tissue from around an Achilles tendon.

Ten days ago, Lewis' with-



Kate Burton, last year's runner-up, eyes a putt during qualifying for the women's amateur championship

Ratcliffe prospers amid storms

By PATRICIA DAVIES

WATERWINGS and amphibious trolleys would have been useful items of equipment during a soggy first qualifying round in the English women's amateur championship at Walton Heath yesterday as most competitors struggled to break 80. An hour's delay for thunder, lightning and torrential rain did nothing for the players' equilibrium but Elaine Ratcliffe, an experienced Curtis Cup player from Sandiway, coped better than most and set the standard with a 71, three under par.

Middlewich but golf, not grass, has priority. She was three under par after five holes, with birdies at the 2nd and 4th, both par fives that she reached in two, and a tap-in birdie three at the 5th, where she hit the pin with her second shot, a five-iron.

The weather break came after Ratcliffe had played the 6th but, unlike many of her rivals, she resumed still firing, not frozen. At the 153-yard 7th, she hit a six-iron to six inches and was out in 33, four under par.

The dropped a shot at the 11th, where she took three putts, but that was her only blemish and she parred her way home under the watchful eye of Alan Walker, her caddie, an artisan member of the club.

RUGBY LEAGUE Gregory is defiant before new hearing

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE unpredictability that marked Andy Gregory as the best scrum half Great Britain has produced is, arguably, his biggest weakness nowadays. Despite insisting that his latest disciplinary summons by the Rugby Football League (RFL) today is irrelevant to his position as Salford Reds coach, he is contrary enough to change his mind on the way home.

A £1,000 suspended fine hangs over Gregory from last July for calling Robert Connolly, the referee, a "big head and poser". Gregory became disillusioned with the authorities then and was talked out of resigning. After being charged with verbally abusing Steve Ganson, who refereed Salford's match against Sheffield Eagles ten days ago, and being caught on television mouthing an obscenity, he claimed that he was being singled out and again threatened to quit.

As well as activating the suspended fine and possibly adding to it, the RFL disciplinary committee may also look at a touchline ban. Gregory has the support of the Salford board, but after his side's defeat away to London Broncos last Sunday, he said that he would make a decision on his future after the hearing.

Yesterday, though, Gregory said: "I will still be Salford coach this weekend and I will point out to the hearing that I did not run on to the pitch to swear at the referee, or criticise him publicly at a press conference. I didn't know the cameras were pointing directly at me. What do they expect a coach to say in the heat of the moment?"

Steve Blakeley, the Salford and England stand-off, will miss the Reds' next two matches at home to Castleford Tigers on Sunday then away to Wigan Warriors, after he was cautioned against London, Martin Offiah, the Broncos wing, has not broken his ankle as first feared, but will miss the game away to Bradford Bulls on Friday. Glen Ford, John Timu, Mark Carroll and Chris Ryan have also been ruled out.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Nurse fits the bill for Giants

MANCHESTER: Manchester Giants announced yesterday that Nick Nurse would be their new coach. A 30-year-old former player and Birmingham Bullets to a Budweiser Championship play-off triumph in 1996—a title they regained earlier this month—Nurse had been favourite for the job ever since Jim Brandon's recent resignation.

GIULIANO: Mario Cipollini equalled the Giro d'Italia record of Eddy Merckx when he won the tenth stage, from Vasto, yesterday. It was his 25th stage win in his eighth Giro. Cipollini is not a contender for overall champion but his fierce sprint honours his team-mate, finished second for the fourth time, with Endrio Leoni completing another clean sweep for Italy. In Cipollini's wake came the main field—including Alex Zile, of Switzerland, the overall leader.

BOWLS: It has been a tough time for the favourites at the Bath Open tournament, where the defending champion, Martin Tibbs of Chew Stoke, lost in the first round, 21-8, to Derrick Southcombe, of Bath, whom he beat in last year's final. Southcombe then made a swift exit, beaten 21-7 by Alan Harris. Mike Prosser, from Bristol, lost 21-9 to Alan Baker, leaving Jim Hobday, of West Backwell, as the new favourite.

RUGBY LEAGUE: Keighley Cougars have completed the signing of Adam Fogarty, a prop forward, on a part-time contract. Fogarty has played Super League rugby at Warrington this season but needed time off to pursue his acting career.

RUGBY UNION: Gloucester have confirmed the signing of Simon Mannix, the former Sale and New Zealand fly half.

FOR THE RECORD

CRICKET One-day international Triangular tournament India v Bangladesh

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Conference semi-finals Eastern Conference

BOWLS CLEVEDON: Clevedon Mercury Open

ORIENTEERING KILARNEY: World Cup relay Men

BASEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE: Toronto 7 Boston 5

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE: St. Louis 1 Los Angeles 0

DANCE SPORT BLACKPOOL: British Open Senior Mod

SHOOTING JERSEY: NRA Channel Islands Tour

BASEBALL NATIONAL LEAGUE: St. Louis 1 Los Angeles 0

CRICKET Benson and Hedges Cup Quarter-finals

FOOTBALL King Hassan II International Cup

OTHER SPORT SPEEDWAY: Epsom League: Paolo v King

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Howard Cohen made the slam on today's hand, but asked if I thought he had taken the correct line.

KEENE on CHESS

Chess board diagram and text: White resigns

Shirov v Kramnik The second game in the qualifying match to determine the challenger to Garry Kasparov also ended in a quick draw.

WORD-WATCHING By Philip Howard

New television deal could spark salary explosion

THOUGH it would have barely warranted a footballer, golfer or racing driver getting out of bed, the sum that secured the close-season transfer of Chris Adams to Sussex aroused fevered debate within English cricket.

Doomsters claimed that Adams had set in motion a grubby, football-style transfer market, which would be fed by frenetic competition for places in the two-division one-day league starting next year and a two-tier county championship that may soon follow. In fact, another county actually offered to pay Adams more than the £200,000 he will reportedly earn for three years' work at Sussex.

It now appears that his move may have been more a symptom of the financial tremors caused by

English cricket's first seismic television deal that came into effect three years ago. By accommodating both terrestrial and satellite broadcasters, it raised nearly £60 million for the domestic coffers over four seasons.

The amounts may be trifling compared with other leading sports, but — as a survey in next month's *Cricketer* magazine based on club accounts reveals — players' wages rose by 35 per cent in the two years from 1995, when the 18 first-class counties first came under concerted pressure to reward more highly those who were providing the entertainment.

Many of today's highest earners at county level come from overseas but the average English capped player receives an annual income of more than £30,000 —

Simon Wilde says county players are at last beginning to achieve decent pay levels after years as professional sport's poor relations

one that would have been the envy of his predecessors in even the recent past. At a recent meeting of the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) pay was not an issue, but it is sure to return to the agenda if the next set of television negotiations is conducted in a free market and another bonanza is secured.

Adams, reputedly the highest native earner, was lured to a county in turmoil after half of the team had walked out. The cost of kicking out those responsible for so many voting with their feet transpires to have been £70,000.

Throw in a £10,000 agent's fee for making sure that Adams chose Sussex ahead of a dozen rivals and it is unsurprising that the club's overall costs rose by 26 per cent in two years — a bigger leap than at any other county.

Wages bills now absorb more than a quarter of the entire costs incurred by clubs and hard-pressed chief executives could be forgiven for thinking that their players are cruelly echoing Sir Henry Newbolt's famous invocation: "Pay up, pay up and we'll play the game."

Last year, Lancashire became

the first county with a wage bill exceeding £1 million and it will take another leap this year as they have now broken further new ground by putting all their players on year-round contracts.

The Lancashire bill increased by 38 per cent in the two years to 1997 and other big rises were enjoyed by players at Somerset, Leicestershire and Kent — 70, 59 and 51 per cent respectively — though the players at the first two clubs had previously been relatively underpaid.

Those at Kent and Lancashire probably deserved their rises as

they responded to the financial carrot by challenging for numerous trophies. Lancashire won the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1995 and 1996 and the NatWest Trophy in 1996. Kent the Axa Equity & Law League in 1997. For finishing second in three competitions last year, Kent's players shared £200,000 in bonuses.

The pressure to compete appears to be pushing up wages across the board and increases at counties where wages lay behind are understood to be in the pipeline. The Northamptonshire wage bill maintained its 1996 level last year and rises at Hampshire, Yorkshire and Essex were marginal.

Yorkshire and Essex both incurred heavy expenses on ground schemes and Yorkshire expe-

rienced further cause for concern in collapsed gate receipts, which fell by 50 per cent — a graphic public response, perhaps, to their controversial decision to abandon most of their outgrounds. Gate receipts as a whole rose by 14 per cent, suggesting that the public is generally happy to watch better-off players.

Of course, bare statistics hide unpalatable truths. Though average salaries grow, many junior professionals probably enjoy little of the financial cream lapped up by the fat-cats. And, as nothing comes for free, it is surely inevitable that as pay rises so staffing levels will fall.

This process is already underway at some counties so, once again, it will be the junior professionals who pay the price.

Stature of young Lancastrian growing in build-up to England's World Cup challenge

Flintoff seen as a power in the land

Surrey keen to gain revenge for debacle of 1993

By SIMON WILDE

Ivo Tennant on a batsman driven by the prospect of a big future in the one-day game

Andrew Flintoff has the build of a No 8 forward and yet the athleticism of a more feline sportsman. He likes to drive through the line of the ball, hitting it, according to Michael Atherton, harder than any other batsman in the game. With a string of England representative tours behind him, the future glistens brightly.

Not that Lancashire, his county, wish to promote him with indecent haste. Dav Whatmore, his coach, has an innate suspicion of outsiders who would do so. There is little doubting, though, that after going on the England A tour last winter, Flintoff will be a contender for the World Cup next year, and, conceivably, for the limited-overs internationals in Australia this winter.



Flintoff has learnt quickly from a succession of tours to the extent that he is now a contender for a World Cup place next year

He was signed for Lancashire by David Lloyd, who now, as the England coach, holds him in the same high regard as he does Ben Hollis. Flintoff was chosen for the Lancashire second XI at the age of 15 in spite of having not played any cricket at his school in Preston.

He was certainly intelligent enough to follow his brother to university, but he opted not to take any A levels, realising at a young age what he intended to do. "I always wanted to play cricket," he said.

At the age of 10, Flintoff was bowling medium-pace for Dutton Forshaw, playing in the same Palace Shield competition as his father, a machinist with British Aerospace. He was already tall, skinny and sharp for his age. Until he developed a curvature of the spine, he was reckoned to have more promise as an opening bowler than as a batsman who, in his teenage years, possessed the strength and reach to hit the ball far harder than most.

Flintoff, now 20 and 6ft 4in tall, played for the English Schools Cricket Association and was chosen for two Eng-

land Under-15 tours and then three at under-19 level, on two of which he was coached by Lloyd. He captained the under-19 side to Pakistan, and, as was evident when he and Steve James spoke out most vociferously in favour of staying in Sri Lanka on the A tour in the winter — a bomb had gone off in Kandy and a majority was in favour of returning home — is regarded as a natural leader of men.

Unwavering in the Lancastrian way, Flintoff soon gained a reputation as a cricketer who practised hard. "I like to listen to people like Mike Atherton

'He is going to frustrate me and his team-mates but he fits in very well and is capable of going the distance'

and learn how to approach games in different ways. On the A tour, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting would offer advice on shot selection, playing as straight as possible and how to bat for a long time. It was not easy in that heat, but I benefited when playing spin," he said.

"I was surprised to be chosen for the tour and hurting my back in Sri Lanka did

not help me — I did not play for a fortnight and took part in only one of the representative matches. What I found is that playing against different types of bowling on a variety of pitches is brilliant. The time off is not so good because there is not a lot to do."

On the Kenya leg of the A tour, Flintoff struck a century in a one-day match, emphasising how quickly he picks up

the length of the ball and how savagely he pulls it. Now that he is playing regularly for Lancashire, opening in the Axa League, there will be a few opponents in the field who will be concerned about protecting their fingers. "Andrew has big hands and his hand is straight," Atherton said. "but when he steps up a level he will find that he won't get so many half-volleys."

Whatmore remarked on how fortunate Flintoff is to have "good people" around him: Atherton, Wasim Akram and Neil Fairbrother are just three colleagues who possess abundant knowledge. "Andrew's general maturity and behaviour is reflected in his cricket," his coach said.

"He is less idle and better at utilising his time, thinks about the game the night before and is paying more attention to his performance. He is going to frustrate me and his team-mates but he fits in very well in the dressing-room and is capable of going the distance."

SURREY'S enigmatic cricket will be given a further test of character today when they take on Lancashire, another whose performances can be hard to predict, in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals. Surrey are top of the Britannic Assurance county championship, bottom of the Axa League and showing familiar signs of strain as international calls play havoc with selection.

The contest is a rematch of a meeting that Surrey would prefer to forget, five years ago, when the competition was played on a knockout basis throughout. Needing 237 to win, they were coasting at 212 for one, but then collapsed astonishingly, losing nine wickets for 18 runs — and the match.

It was one of several defeats that Surrey have snatched from victorious jaws at the Oval in recent times. Their batting self-destructed there in similar fashion in a NatWest Trophy tie against Nottinghamshire ten months ago.

Thorpe, a key figure for Surrey, who scored 103 in the debacle five years ago, is likely to have recovered from the back trouble that caused him to miss the Texaco Trophy series against South Africa. Saqlain Mushtaq also expects to be fit.

The match between sides studded with internationals takes top billing today. Surrey are the holders and Lancashire won the competition in the two previous years.

Among numerous individual performances that will be monitored with interest are those of two potential England all-rounders — Ben Hollis, of Surrey, and Flintoff, of Lancashire — and Salisbury, whose unorthodox right-arm spin bowling for Surrey has improved dramatically this season.

The second-best tie could be that between Kent, the losing finalists last year, and Leicestershire at Grace Road. Kent's depth and experience make them favourites but Leicestershire are a much-improved one-day side, though they

have a lengthy casualty list. They will be without Mills and possibly Lewis, who must test his sore hip, for which he is undergoing intensive treatment. Key, the teenager who has begun promisingly with Kent, is expected to play his first cup match.

In other games, Middlesex and Essex meet at Lord's in a repeat of the 1983 final — another famous match that turned turtle — and Yorkshire play Durham at Headingley. The hosts ought to have the measure of opponents appearing in their first cup quarter-final but they are never more liable to fall flat on their face than when fancied.

News from the physio's table also offers Durham en-



Thorpe: back to fitness

couragement. Brown, who has knee trouble, may make his first competitive appearance of the season and Boon, the captain, intends to play despite a broken toe. Silverwood, arguably Yorkshire's best bowler this season, could be absent with sore shins.

Malinda Bandara, an 18-year-old leg-spinner, makes his Test debut for Sri Lanka against New Zealand in the match that starts in Colombo today. Bandara has little top-level experience but caught the selectors' attention by removing the top three New Zealand batsmen while playing for the Sri Lanka Board President's XI in Kandy at the weekend.

Raise three cheers to triple centurions

It wasn't such a bad decision to give the Texaco Trophy a miss. As England played some ordinary cricket, a round of extraordinary championship matches was taking place. In the froth and bubble of modern sport, which gives the impression that only "big events" count, the County Championship is not considered a sexy competition: so, when people accomplish remarkable things, they should be saluted.

No fewer than 24 hundreds adorned the eight county games and, as no batsman reached three figures at Gloucester or Edgbaston, that is going some. There was one total of more than 700, another of 600-plus and two of more than 550 — a veritable banquet for the batsmen.

Three teams, Derbyshire, Glamorgan and Worcestershire, boasted three century-makers in an innings. Mark Ramprakash made two in the match at Uxbridge, and Justin



MICHAEL HENDERSON

Langer came within three runs of matching him. Mark Butcher carried his bat at Taunton and Robert Key, of Kent, made his first hundred in the first-class game.

Somerset's was the outstanding team performance. Beginning their second innings 65 runs behind Surrey, and promptly losing three wickets, they eventually won by 165 runs. Northamptonshire did jolly well to deny

Glamorgan after the champions had built a lead of 391, and Derbyshire, thanks in no small measure to a hundred from Kim Barnett that will have given him enormous pleasure, ensured that the 699 runs that Sussex made in the match at Horsham were insufficient.

The feat that really stood out came at Northampton where, in a game of five centuries, one man made a triple and two more made doubles. Mal Loye was the chap who gorged himself most thoroughly, making an unbeaten 322 to help to save the match against Glamorgan, and sharing in an English record stand for the fifth wicket, 401, with David Ripley, the sort of cricketer who deserves a moment of glory.

Loye has struggled to fulfil his potential since he was selected for an A tour of South Africa five years ago. He did pretty well there but has not, for various reasons, developed as he would have liked. He is still a long way from the Test team but the innings of his life will have reassured him that the game does scatter gifts from time to time.

In making his triple, Loye completes the "team" of players who have passed 300 in a championship innings since the war. Two of the greats are there, six of the very goods,

and three batsmen of lesser rank. As they are entitled to point out, though, it is no small feat to make 300 in any innings, and nobody can ever scrub the achievement.

First came Harold Gimblett, of Somerset, who made 310 against Sussex in 1948. Next there was Jack Robertson, of Middlesex, whose 331 not out kept the Worcestershire bowlers in the field for a tiring day in 1949. A gap of nine years followed, until Raman Subba Row made 300 exactly for Northamptonshire at the Oval.

Glenn Turner, the New Zealand opener, took an unbeaten 311 off Warwickshire in 1982: it was his 100th



Loye: saved the match

hundred and he celebrated at the crease with a gin and tonic that was disguised as a glass of water. Three years later, at Taunton, Warwickshire suffered again when Viv Richards made 322. On both occasions, the young Gladstone Small was one of the bowlers.

Graeme Hick, ten years ago this month, when his world seemed to be one of limitless possibilities, made his massive 405 not out against Somerset. In 1990, the "Year of the Bat", there were two triples. Jimmy Cook, the dignified South African who always acknowledged the crowd's ovation properly, reached 313 not out for Somerset in Cardiff and Neil Fairbrother's 366 for Lancashire on a Saturday at the Oval featured a hundred in each session of play.

Brian Lara made 390 in a day at Edgbaston four years later, on his way to the world record individual score, 501 not out against Durham. In 1996 Jason Gallian made 312 for Lancashire against Derbyshire at Old Trafford and finished on the losing side. Hick turned in another triple last year, 303 not out, against Hampshire, and now the team has a full complement. Well done, Malachy Bernhard Loye. You have earned your place in the sun.

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They seem on the ball, even off the pitch

When most people think about professional footballers, too many of them immediately conjure up an image of a grown man brimming with athletic talent below the ankle, but with the same level of mental development as a pichard. That's certainly not even though I know, come down, that this is just a crude stereotype, and that there are probably dozens of extremely skilful footballers out there who barely have the mental complexity even of plankton. So what a delight it was to see all those soccer stars emerge from The Truth About Footballers (ITV) sounding intelligent, thoughtful and articulate.

The triumph of this rapid-fire style of editing - which was pretty much forged by Hollywood Women, but which has since been so widely imitated that we have now come to think of it as a long-established programme-making technique - is that most people apart from Wittgenstein and Isaiah Berlin can convey pretty much everything they have to say on a subject in fewer than 20 seconds. So why give them more? In the case of many footballers, a period of ten to 20 seconds also happens to correspond to the exact length of time they can speak without losing coherence, spitting out saying "know what I mean?". As a result, many of us will have come away from last night's documentary thinking that footballers are nicer, more articulate people than we had previously imagined. They probably are, too.

The technique - used more recently by the Hollywood Women/Men/Pets team on The Truth About Women - resembles the shuffling of a pack of cards. The job of the director and editor is to act like card sharps, relying not on pot luck but on sleight of hand to make sure that the poker hand they end up holding is a royal flush rather than, say, jack high. The selection seems random, but each comment casts a light on the one which precedes or follows it, generating a sort of punchy commentary without the heavy-handedness of a narrator. Contributors praise or pillory each other without their even knowing it.



Joe Joseph

On the matter of prematch sex, for example, Frank Lebovitz (whose young son Des Lynam once memorably labelled "le spare rib") implicitly derided those who advocated abstinence by telling us: "I think to make love is to live your life. I recommend it to make love. I did it once in the morning before a game and I don't remember playing so badly, you know. No, I was good! I scored two goals: one in the morning and one in the afternoon." After England's grim performance against Saudi Arabia over the weekend, maybe Glenn Hoddle should be rethinking the team's prematch preparation.

In The Red (BBC2). The implication is that if the BBC can mock itself like this, can it really be the po-faced, philistine, accountant-run organisation its critics ridicule. Far point - especially since the man who plays the BBC Director General is Michael Wearling, the BBC's former Head of Drama Serials, who quit over his dislike of where John Birt was leading the BBC. But on the same ground, could the BBC - already lampooned as humourless - have afforded to reject it? And by not stinging on the budget, the BBC has cleverly made sure we remember it as much for its starchy cast - Warren Clarke, Alan Armstrong, Keith Barron, Richard Griffiths, John Birt, Stephen Fry, Richard Wilson, John Sessions - as for its glibes at the corporation.

Although there is a serial-murder mystery underpinning the plot, the puzzle that most television insiders will be looking to solve will be identifying the BBC staff on whom the characters might be based (especially since the programme is not half so convoluted as the lips' stoned but ever professional Radio 4 newscaster is apparently based on a real newscaster). The same goes for political types, especially with regard to Crichton Potter (Richard Griffiths), the shallow leader of the small, centrist Reform Party. In many ways the political punches would more effectively than those thrown at the BBC (especially since, for all the fuss, In The Red must be as threatening to the BBC as a pinprick on a rhino's backside).

But the most chillingly satirical aspect of In The Red is that Mark Taverner's novel, on which Malcolm Bradbury's three-part adaptation is based, was written in the 1960s as a satire on Thatcherism: it was Thatcher's policies which prompted the murderer to embark on his killing spree. Apart from replacing references to the Tories with references to the new Labour, the programme according to its producer, Sarah Smith - needed almost no tweaking or updating. The biggest joke, of course, is that this kind of well-acted, higher-brow, sumptuously produced, political satire is exactly the sort of thing that the BBC always manages to pull off so gracefully. A case of the bitter bit?

REVIEW

As an ITV West except: 1.00pm A Country Practice (51843) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4419535) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6174640) 6.25-7.00 Central News (4467568) 11.40 Midnight Caller (2360898) 12.00pm FILM: The Lookalike (857799) 2.25 One Summer in Whiby (1010698) 2.55 Vanessa (3250436) 3.30 Cybernet (24751) 4.00 Central Jobfinder '98 (8974003) 5.20 Asian Eye (1908480)

WESTCOUNTRY

As an ITV West except: 12.15pm Westcountry News (6740718) 12.27-12.30 Illuminations (9552911) 1.00 Emmerdale (51843) 1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (4419535) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6174640) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (39447) 11.40 Renegade (614008)

MERIDIAN

As an ITV West except: 12.15-12.30 News and Weather (6740718) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (6174640) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (319) 6.30-7.00 Alfresco Outdoor Eating (668) 11.40 Renegade (614008) 5.00am Freshscreen (33916)

ANGLIA

As an ITV West except: 1.00pm-1.30 Hope and Gloria (51843) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6174640) 6.25-7.00 Anglia News (4467568) 11.40 Swift Justice (614008)

SWIFT

Starts: 7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (65396) 9.00 Rocco's Modern Life (18008) 9.30 Saved by the Bell (41282) 10.00 Secret World of Alex Mack (3876756) 10.40 Moesha (8811534) 11.10 Madison (7785973) 11.40 The Bigger Breakfast (6235114) 12.00pm Ricki Lake (96244) 12.30 Sesame Street (52398) 1.00 Spot Mithrin (11169350) 1.15 Smot y Gyl (11164805) 1.30 Eisteddfod (622756) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (282) 4.30 Countdown (468) 5.00 5 Pump (1089) 5.30 Pet Rescue (718) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (666008) 6.10 Heno (263350) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (152534) 7.25 Eisteddfod (6785282) 8.30 Newyddion (9008) 9.00 Frazier (6398) 9.30 Friends (32534) 10.00 Brookside (311824) 10.35 ER (281244) 11.30 Whose Line is It Anyway? (83331) 12.00am Fresh Pop (3639732) 12.15 FILM: Emperor of the North Pole (1029577) 2.30 NBA JXL (62732) 4.30 Gamesmaster (68190)

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8.30 Chef for a Night (6/6) Judy Barton and Jane Seargeant prepare a 1950s themed menu for their local theatre restaurant in Southend. Last in series (7) (9008) 9.00 ER: Of Past Regret and Future Fear Hathaway tries to reconcile a critically ill patient with his family and Benton attends his son's baptism (7) (4911) 10.00 Friends: The One With the Dollhouse Joy thinks he's found his true love (7) (79797) 10.30 Whose Line is It Anyway? Improvisational game hosted by Clive Anderson (7) (83391) 11.00 Jo Whalley Guesses include 4 Hero, the drum and bass pioneers and removers, and the Welsh band Super Furry Animals (877350) 11.45 Board Stupid (1) (7) (738805) 12.15am Emperor of the North (1979) with Lee Marvin, Keith Carradine and Ernest Borgnine. A tramp and a young man aim to hitch a free ride on a bus driver's train - and survive. Directed by Robert Aldrich (1029577) 2.30 NBA JXL (62732) 4.30 Gamesmaster (68190) 5.00 Trans World Sport (7) (1503664)

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CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. The new half-orbit decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News and Sport (3813621) 7.00 WideWorld (7) (7) (3007232) 7.30 Mike & Denise (3852756) 7.35 Wmnie's House (7) (7802027) 8.00 Havakoo Farm (1) (487718) 8.30 Deppeldown Farm (1) (1496089) 9.00 Realm of the Giant Salamander (7) (7) (1410689) 9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7) (9271244) 10.20 Sunset Beach (7) (8877373) 11.10 Leeza (8783843) 12.00 5 News (7) (1490805) 12.30pm Family Affairs (7) (7) (1490805) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (7) (3006553) 1.30 Sons and Daughters (4186534) 2.00 Open House with Gloria Hunniford (3784060) 3.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1461553) 3.30 The Sliding Veilings (1979) with Robert Buchanan and Billy Glessner. Comedy about a group of Glasgow youths who decide to pull a robbery. Directed by Bill Forsyth (3258398) 5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Fergie in New York (9639718) 6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (2204669) 6.30 Family Affairs Claire panics when the babies go missing (7) (2288821) 7.00 5 News (7) (1490805) 7.30 Realm of the Giant Salamander: Snow Monkeys of Hell Valley Documentary focusing on a troop of monkeys who have discovered the benefits of bathing in hot springs (7) (2284805)

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RUGBY UNION 36

Fiji take full toll of faltering display by Scotland

SPORT

WEDNESDAY MAY 27 1998

CRICKET 41 Flintoff emerges as power in the land



Ankle injury may give youngster chance to stake World Cup claim

Ince adds to England's ifs and Butts

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN LA MANGA, SPAIN

THE music still pumped out of the speakers that had been arranged around the pitch, the holidaymakers in the grandstand still nibbled at their ice creams and cheered lustily every time that Paul Gascoigne or David Beckham touched the ball.

On the sidelines with a pained expression. At the end, he came across to talk to the crowd and proffer his signature, but he looked downcast.

session in the afternoon limping heavily with his left ankle heavily strapped. It has not yet got to the stage where his participation in the World Cup is in doubt, but he will almost certainly not be risked either this afternoon or against Belgium on Friday.

Sanguine Sheringham ... 40 Simon Barnes ... 40

to step training as a precaution and it was still possible that he would play against Morocco in Casablanca today.

The problem is that the waters eddying around football injuries, particularly at international level, have been so muddled by the dissemblings of managers that no one quite knows what to believe any more.

He took no further part in training yesterday and spent the rest of the session on the



Gascoigne, a guaranteed starter against Morocco this evening, tries his hand in goal at training yesterday

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for 'TIMES TWO CROSSWORD'.

No 1416

- ACROSS: 1 Emblems of royalty (7) 5 Mad (dog) (5) 8 Sudden spurt exploded (5) 9 Advantage (7) 10 Deep crack in ice (8) 11 Part of eye: to hit to fasten (4) 13 Signature album (9,4) 16 Block: third house close on one's (8) 17 Block before house close on one's (8) 20 Manon Lescaut composer (7) 21 Indian police stick (5) 22 Very dark hardwood (5) 23 Saying th for s (7) DOWN: 1 Manderley book (du Maurier) (7) 2 Furze (5) 3 Lassitude (8) 4 Relating to envoys (13) 5 Official position: smelling off (4) 6 An ox: a bison (7) 7 To dump: a channel (5) 12 Laughs delightfully (8) 14 Virginia plant (7) 15 Mandalay poet (7) 16 Spinney (5) 18 All play (mus.) (5) 19 Thin but strong (person) (4)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE



Hodge and Ince discuss the injury that has cast a cloud over England's World Cup preparations

find out. He is going into a zone then where he could pull a muscle. That is the area that is danger time. But the players will be given the choice. They will know that there is still a substitution up our sleeve and they will have to be honest with themselves if they start to feel something.

to give players such as McManaman, Philip Neville, Ian Wright and now Butts the chance to strengthen their claims. The team for the match on Friday will be closer to full strength. That, though, depends on the vexed question of Ince's ankle.

to give players such as McManaman, Philip Neville, Ian Wright and now Butts the chance to strengthen their claims. The team for the match on Friday will be closer to full strength. That, though, depends on the vexed question of Ince's ankle.

Inter lead race to sign Baggio

INTERNAZIONALE last night appeared to have beaten Arsenal to the signature of Roberto Baggio, the 31-year-old Bologna forward who was recently called to the Italy squad for the World Cup finals.

Although Arsenal refused to comment on the transfer yesterday, Giuseppe Frascara Gazoni, the president of Bologna, claimed that the FA Carling Premiership champions had made the player an offer of £6 million over three years.

Zola, last night spoke of his bitterness at being left out of the World Cup by Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach. "After giving him a debut victory with my goal at Wembley, there seems to have been some sort of gradual exclusion process. I have been slowly pushed out," Zola said. "Being left out fills me with pain."

"The chances of Roberto leaving have risen to 99.9 per cent," Gazoni said. "Arsenal and Inter can offer him something we cannot — the Champions' League. We obviously want to keep him but we can't afford the sort of money Arsenal are offering."

Southampton expect to complete the signing of Tottenham Hotspur's midfielder player, David Howells, on a free transfer by the end of the week. The 30-year-old, who has spent ten years at White Hart Lane, has been involved in talks with David Jones, the Southampton manager, for the past three days.



Baggio: no decision

Di Matteo: would return

Gan remain on course as pursuing pack lose their way

BY PETER BRYAN

THE Prutour of Britain cycling race was thrown into chaos during the third stage, from Manchester to Blackpool, yesterday, when a direction arrow at a roundabout near Clitheroe was lost, causing all but five of the 94 starters to go off course.

Officials with the main pack did not realise the error for more than ten minutes, then immediately stopped the race. Ahead, the breakaway pack of five riders, including Mark McCartney, leader of the Linda McCartney team, had been building up a threatening lead in excess of five minutes. They had climbed Holme Moss, 1,500 feet high and shrouded in mist, and continued on the early descent section.

Race officials with the "lost legion" told colleagues with the front pack of the situation and asked that the leaders be slowed down approaching the second climb of the day, Waddington Fell. But the plea for them to slow to allow the peloton to make contact initially fell on deaf ears.

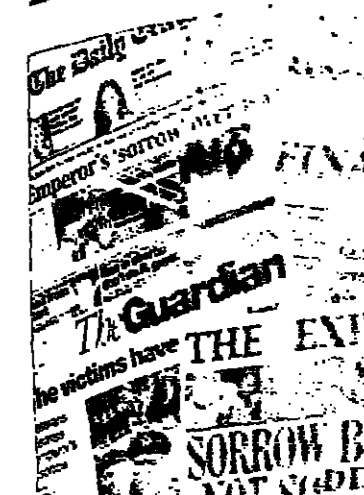
Among the front five was Jonathan Vaughters, of the US Postal team, who had started the stage leading the King of the Mountains competition. Radio contact between the officials established that a gap of 35 minutes separated the two groups. While the leaders continued and started the ascent of Waddington, news came from the rear group of a threat that the riders would refuse to join them.

Eventually a compromise was reached while both sets of riders remained in the saddle. The front five were halted after the ascent of Waddington (won by Vaughters) and restarted, with the pack then held back for 5 1/2 minutes before setting off in pursuit.

Within 14 miles of the restart, Walsham had won £1,000 as he changed to victory in the Prudential anniversary sprint at Garstang, but he then the leaders' advantage was being chipped away and reduced to four minutes.

A big pack had gathered for the final mile, from which Jay Sweet, the young Australian BigMat rider, emerged the winner. Amid the confusion, the Gan team retained most of the leading places overall, with Chris Boardman remaining in second behind Stuart O'Grady.

POWS



Anger over 'sorrow' refer

BY ROBERT WHIMSTON AND ALAN HAMILTON

FORMER prisoners of war were angered by a reference in a speech by the Emperor that they had been filled with deep sorrow.

Language experts said: "Our hearts are in pain." But the Emperor added to the Emperor's speech given to the Emperor Tony Blair, which read: "The thought of the Emperor that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow."

The discrepancy prompted an immediate row over the Japanese Emperor's English-speaking address, a claim they vehemently denied last night. The Emperor's speech, which was filled with deep sorrow, was unambiguous.

Japanese Foreign Minister and Imperial Palace spokesman had told for weeks that the Emperor's speech, which was filled with deep sorrow, was unambiguous.

Blair heads over £3.60 m

BY JILL SHERMAN

THE Prime Minister is heading for a further confrontation with trade unions after receiving a report from the Low Pay Commission that recommends a minimum wage of £3.60 an hour.

The figure, which is likely to be backed by Tony Blair, contrasts with the rate of more than £4 an hour recommended by the TUC. Yesterday the CBI indicated that it could accept the commission's figure.

Take the time to listen and you'll hear what people are really saying.

Table with categories and prices: TV & RADIO 50.51, WEATHER 26, CROSSWORDS 26.52, LETTERS 23, OBITUARIES 25, W. REES-MOGG 25, ARTS 36-39, CHESS & BRIDGE 44, COURT & SOCIAL 24, SPORT 44-50.52, BODY & MIND 50, LAW REPORT 42.

THE SAMANTHANS WEEK 95

